

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEMS IN VIRGINIA

	PAGE
<b>PREFACE</b>	
<b>I: VIRGINIA’S JUVENILE POPULATION</b>	
Juvenile Population and Population Projections	2
Racial and Gender Composition	3
Age Distribution	5
Summary	5
<b>II: ARREST DATA</b>	
Offenses	7
Age Distribution	8
Summary	8
<b>III: INTAKE DATA</b>	
Court Service Unit Intake - Delinquent Cases	10
Total Delinquent Cases & Percentage Petitioned	10
Offenses	11
Demographics on Cases - Most Serious Offense is a Delinquent Offense	15
Court Service Unit Intake - Cases with Only Status Offenses	21
Offenses	21
Demographics on Cases - Status Offenses Only	23
<b>IV: SECURE DETENTION</b>	
Average Daily Population, Capacity, and Projected Capacity	28
Length of Stay	29
Admissions for Specific Offenses: Secure Detention	30
Age Distribution	35
Racial and Gender Composition: Secure Detention Facilities	35
Summary: Secure Detention Facilities	39
<b>V: JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS</b>	
Offenses	41
Age Distribution	43
Racial and Gender Composition	44
Summary: Juvenile Correctional Centers	46

# **ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEMS IN VIRGINIA**

## **PREFACE**

This section presents data to illustrate the youth involved in Virginia's juvenile justice system. It is divided into five main parts: information about Virginia's juvenile population and projected population, arrest data, intake data, and detention data. The detention data are further subdivided into secure detention which contains both pre- and post-dispositional information, and correctional center data. The most recent available information is presented and that is usually to 2002.

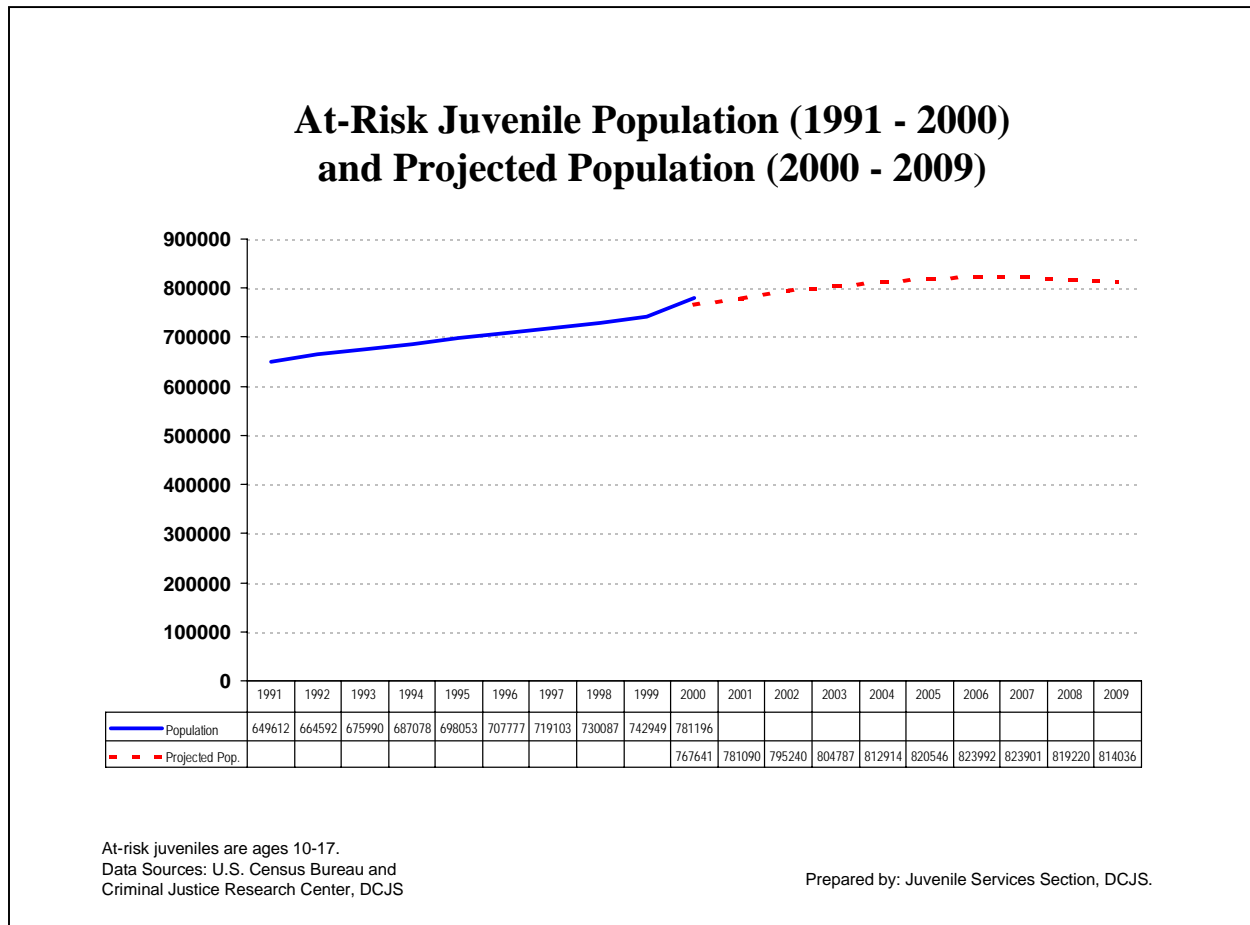
Since the change from uniform crime reporting to the incident-based reporting system, the arrest data have been problematic. A limited amount of arrest data is provided. Further details about the data are provided in the arrest section.

Information is collected from several sources. Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) collects data on juveniles handled by local court service units, juveniles held in secure detention facilities, and juveniles committed to juvenile correctional centers. The U.S. Bureau of the Census provides population data projections. All population data are from the 2000 census.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### I: VIRGINIA'S JUVENILE POPULATION

Children aged 10 through 17, the “at-risk” juvenile population comprised about 11.0% of Virginia’s 2000 population. Virginia’s juvenile at-risk population for the period 1991 to 2000, along with projections for the years 2000 to 2009 are depicted graphically in the figure below.



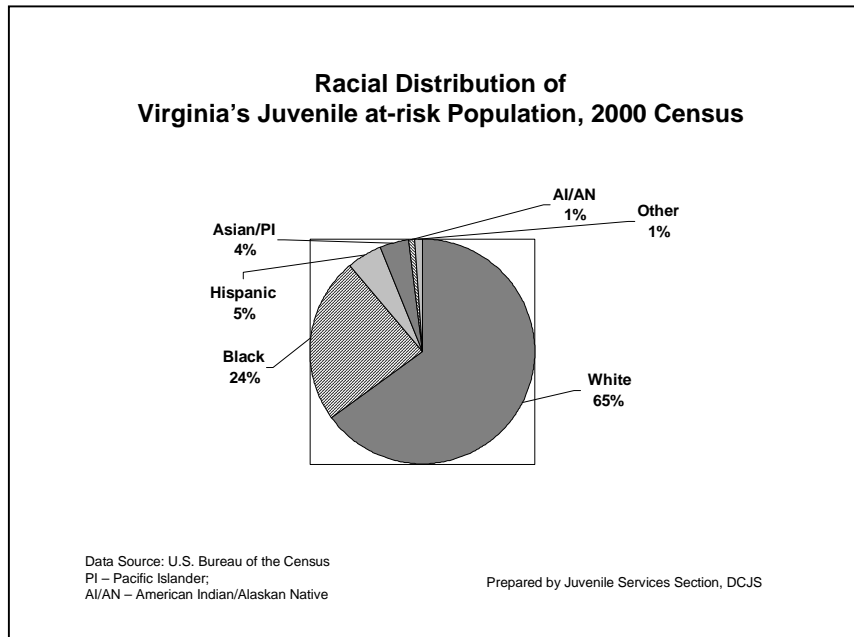
With the revised census estimates, over the 10-year period, 1991-2000, the at-risk juvenile population has increased by 20.3% from 649,612 to 781,196. Much of that increase, 7.0%, has occurred in the period 1998-2000. The data for 2000 exceeds the Census Bureau projection for 2000 by 13,555 persons.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### RACIAL AND GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE JUVENILE POPULATION

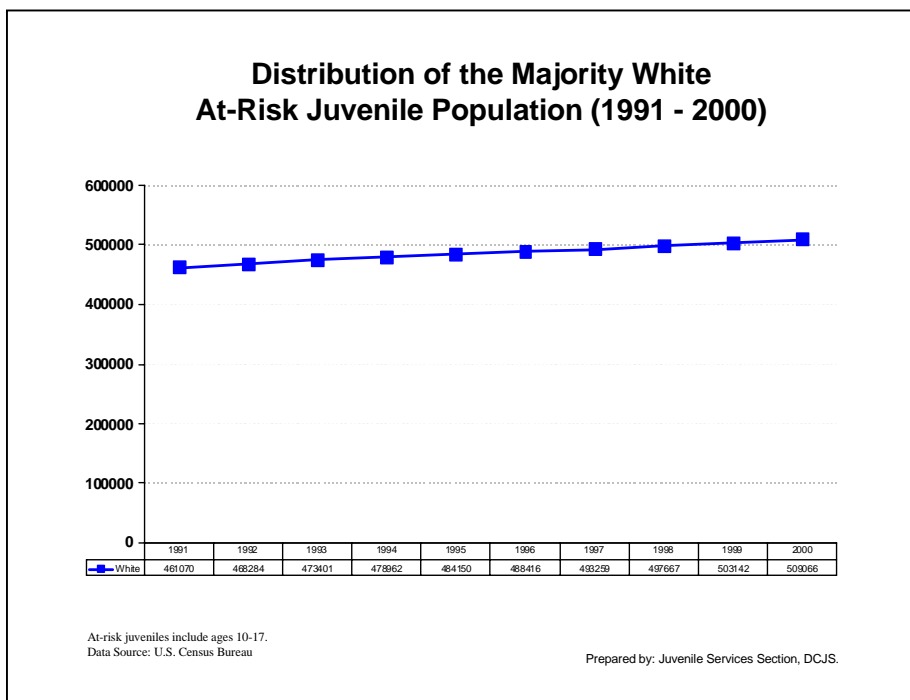
#### Racial Distribution

The racial distribution of the at-risk juvenile population is depicted in the pie chart below.



In 2000, the racial origin of the at-risk juvenile population is estimated as 65% white, 24% black and 11% of other racial origin. Information is available about the *other* racial categories: they are 5% Hispanic, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% more than one race, and less than 1% each for American Indian/Alaskan Native and Other Non-Hispanic race.

Population statistics for racial composition are shown in the graphs below. To better



display the data, the axes on the graphs vary. The first two figures show changes in the majority white and minority black at-risk juvenile populations.

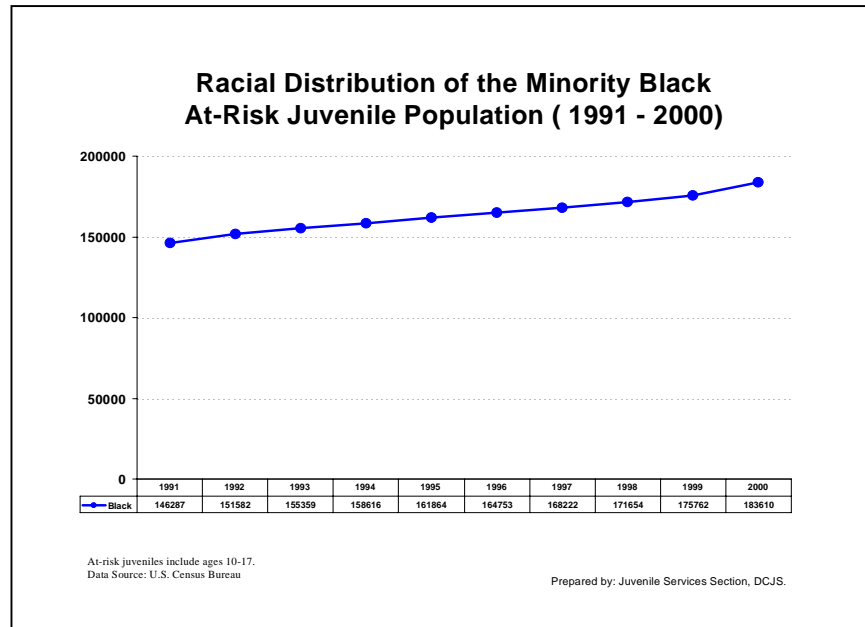
The majority white juvenile at-risk population, aged 10-17, has increased by 10.4% in the 10-year period, 1991 to 2000, as shown in the chart. In the latter three years, 1998-2000, it has

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

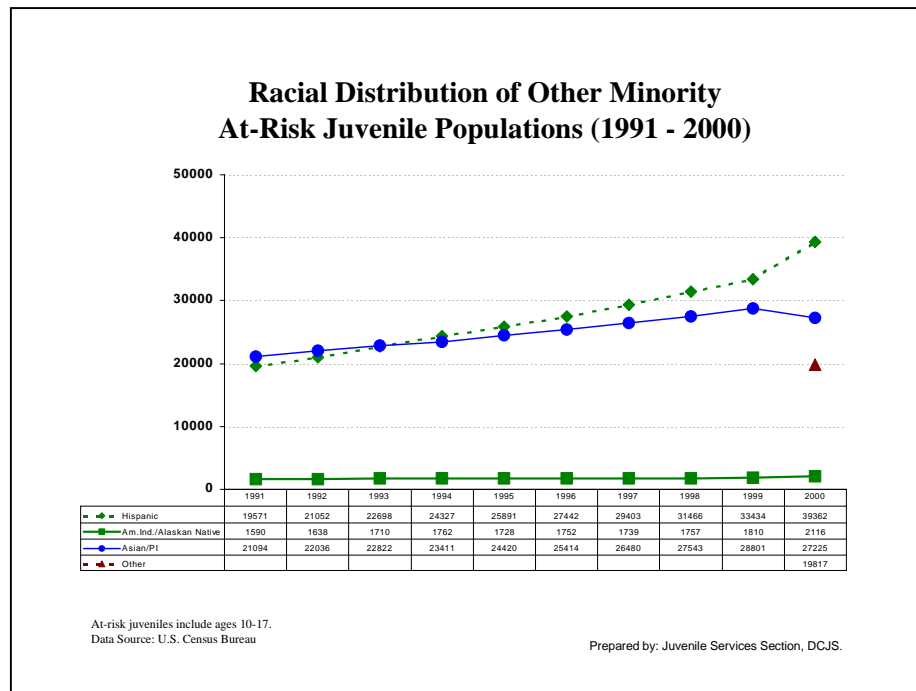
increased by 2.3%.

The black population, shown in the graph, has increased at a rate more than double that of the white population.

In 10 years, it has increased by 25.5%; in the latter three years, by 7.0%.



However, the largest percentage changes are seen in Virginia's other minority juvenile populations. Data for the Hispanic, American



Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander are shown in the graph.

The largest change is shown in the Hispanic population which has doubled in ten years. In just the latter three years, it has increased by 25.1%. The Asian/Pacific Islander juvenile at-risk population shows an increase of 29.1% over ten years. However, it shows a decrease in the past three years of 1.1%.

Although few in number, the American Indian/Alaskan Native population has also increased. It shows a 33.1% increase over 10 years, 20.4% of which occurs in the latter three years. The single point in the graph at the year 2000 is the other category which

## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

includes juveniles classified as of "other race" or of "more than one race" in the 2000 census. Those categories are not given for data for previous years.

### **Gender Distribution**

The gender distribution of Virginia's at-risk juvenile population has remained unchanged for the period 1991 to 2000. It is about 49% female and 51% male.

### **AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE JUVENILE POPULATION**

The present age distribution of the juvenile at-risk population, aged 10-17, as per the 2000 census, is quite even with each age representing between 12% and 13.2% of this population.

### **SUMMARY: VIRGINIA AT-RISK JUVENILE POPULATION**

Over ten years, 1991 to 2000, the at-risk juvenile population has increased by 20% overall. The racial distribution of this population has changed with the percentage of juveniles classified as white decreasing and the percentages of other racial origin increasing. The Hispanic population has doubled in ten years. The black population has increased by 26%. The Asian/Pacific Islander population has increased by 29%. Although few in number, the American Indian/Alaskan Native population has increased by 33%.

## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

### **II: ARREST DATA**

Arrest data are obtained from the Virginia Department of State Police. Since the change from the uniform crime reporting system to incident-based reporting, the arrest data have been problematic. In Virginia, 1999 was the first year to use the IBR system. That year, data for a large, but unknown, number of localities, including many large cities, was incomplete or entirely missing. In 2000, localities representing about one-quarter of the Virginia population reported no data or incomplete data. In 2001, that portion has been reduced to about 7%. It is believed that the missing/incomplete estimates for both 2000 and 2001 are underreported. The result is that trend data are not reliable.

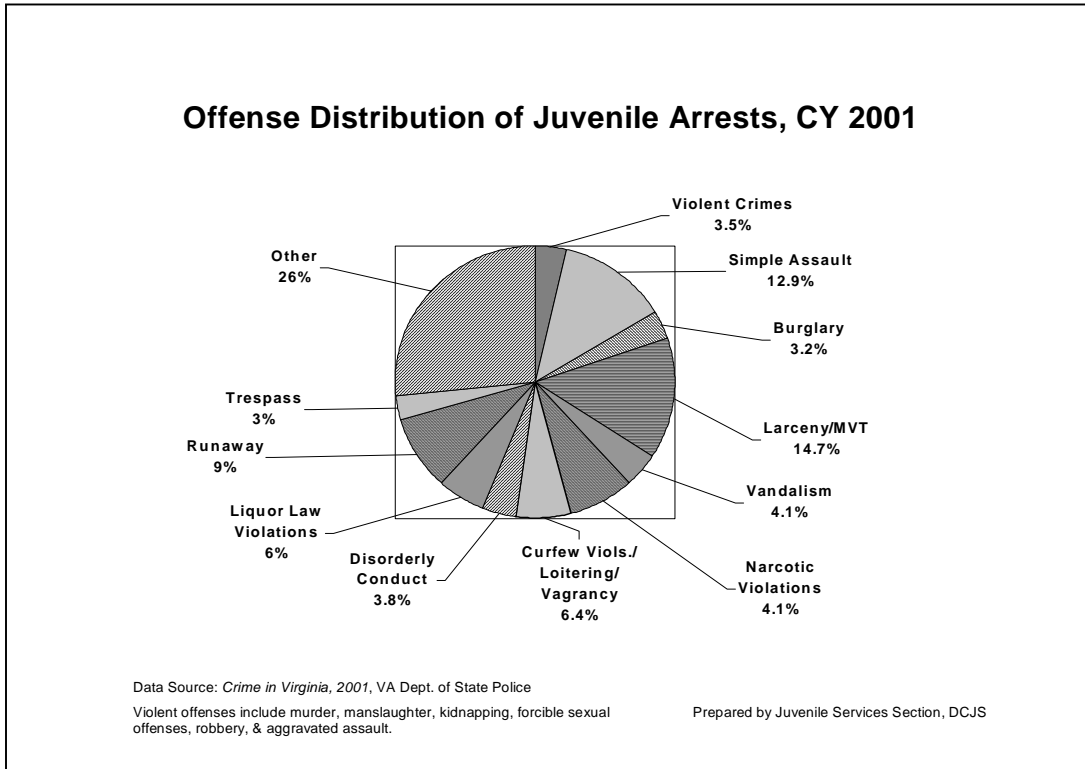
The systems of reporting data are different. With the Uniform Crime Reporting system, only the most serious crime was reported in a multi-crime situation. Thus if two crimes, murder and car theft, occur during the same incident only the most serious of the two crimes, murder, was reported. The IBR system requires that data be reported for each crime occurring during a particular incident.

In this section, general information about the distribution of offenses and the age distribution of offenders for calendar year 2001 is reported. It is assumed that the missing data will have the same general characteristics of offense and age distributions as that which has been reported.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### OFFENSES

The offense distribution of juvenile arrests is shown in the graph below. As the graph shows, violent crimes represent a small portion of juvenile arrests -- about



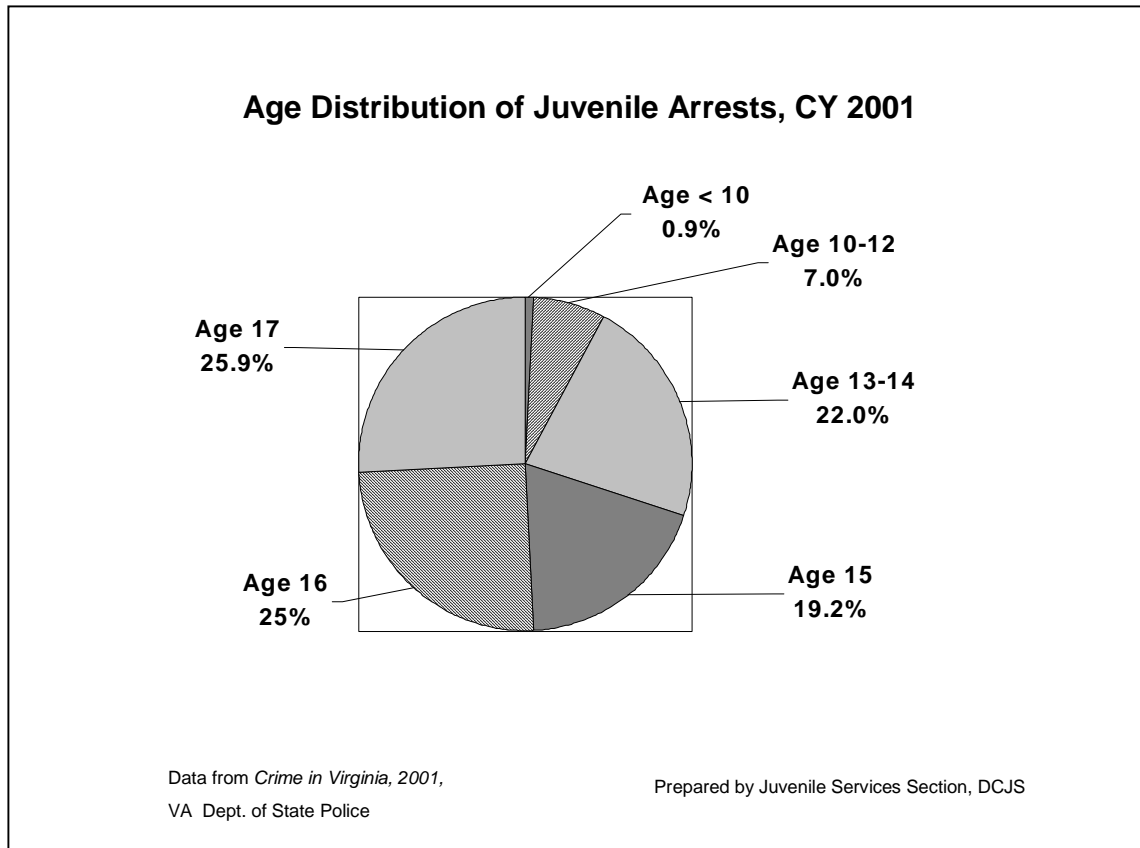
4% in 2001. Larceny/motor vehicle theft (15%) and simple assault (13%) constitute relatively large portions. Together runaways, liquor law violations, and curfew/loitering/vagrancy offenses, many of which are status offenses, constitute over 20%.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### AGE DISTRIBUTION

The age distribution of juvenile arrests is shown in the graph below. As the graph shows, about 30% of children arrested are aged 14 and under. Arrests of children aged 15, 16, and 17 are about equally distributed.



### SUMMARY: ARREST DATA

Arrest data contained in the last Three-Year Plan submitted for 2000-2003 indicated that violent crimes represented about 3% of juvenile crimes in 1998. That portion has remained relatively stable with 3.5% in 2002. The age distribution is also relatively unchanged since 1998. In 1998, children aged 14 and under represented 30.4% of arrests; in 2002 they represented 30.8%.

## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

### **III: INTAKE DATA**

Juveniles are brought to the attention of Intake Officers at Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Units by police and by parents, victims, and other agencies. The Court Service Units receive, review, and process complaints, determine whether a petition should be filed with the court, establish whether to release or detain youth, and provide services to youth and families.

Information on court service unit intake cases is presented in this section. The data are limited. Fairfax County, Virginia's most populated county, did not begin providing statistical data to the Department of Juvenile Justice until 2002. Thus information given here does not include data from Fairfax. Although the data are somewhat limited, they can be used to examine temporal changes in patterns. The Department of Juvenile Justice has also changed the manner in which they count intake cases, therefore intake data are available only for the period 1998 to 2002.

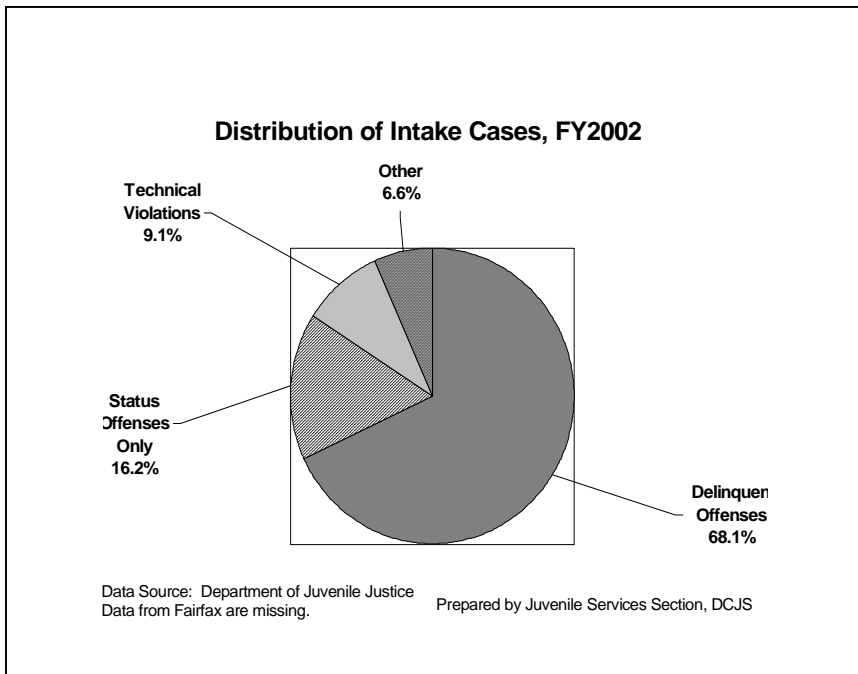
Information on case dispositions is not collected statewide by the Department of Juvenile Justice and is therefore unavailable for analysis. Court clerks maintain disposition data locally, but such information is not routinely reported to court service unit staff, not consistently recorded in court service unit files, and not aggregated for any purpose.

#### **COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE CASES**

The information presented in this section concerns juvenile intake cases. They include cases where the most serious offense is a delinquent offense, cases where the only offense is a status offense, cases of technical violations where no new offense has been committed, and cases classified as other which include cases with traffic and ordinance violations.

Percentile information about the distribution of total juvenile intake cases for 2002 is depicted below. The total number of juvenile intake cases for 2002 was 62,113. Unfortunately, in the data presented in the chart below, 2870 cases were counted more than once in the delinquent, technical violation, and other offense categories, so the percentages must be considered as approximations. Given that they are categorized by most serious offense, it is expected that the duplications will be cases counted in either the technical violations or other category and in the delinquent offense category. Status offense Cases counted as status offense cases have only status offenses; there were no other offenses.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems



As the graph shows, delinquent cases represent more than two-thirds of intake cases.

Cases with only status offenses represent another 16% of intake cases.

Technical violations represent another 9%. These are cases where no new offense has been committed

and would include probation/parole violations, contempt of court, violations of a court order, and failure to appear in court.

Information is now available about the number of cases with prior offenses. Of the 62,113 cases in fiscal year 2002, 41,671 cases or 67.1% have prior offenses.

### COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE - DELINQUENT CASES

Delinquent cases are those for which a child is brought to intake for a complaint that is a felony or a misdemeanor, class 1-4. These are criminal offenses. They range from minor offenses such as shoplifting to major offenses such as murder and manslaughter. Most are misdemeanor offenses. Of the felony offenses, most are property offenses rather than crimes against persons. Cases classified as delinquent may have other complaints against the child such as status offenses, technical violations, domestic relations, or traffic, but the most serious complaint is for a delinquent offense.

Total data are presented, along with information concerning the offenses committed, percentages of cases petitioned, and demographic information regarding age, race and gender.

#### Total Delinquent Cases & Percentage Petitioned

For delinquent cases, there has been little change in the number of children brought to court service unit intake, the number petitioned, or the percentage petitioned over the past five years. Annually, about 44,000 children are brought to court service unit intake in Virginia with delinquent complaints. This number has changed by less than 1% in the period 1998 to 2002. The number and percentage of cases petitioned has also changed little. In 2002, 35,016 cases

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

were petitioned to court representing a numeric change of less than 1% from 1998. About 80% of delinquent cases are petitioned.

### Offenses

#### Largest Offense Categories

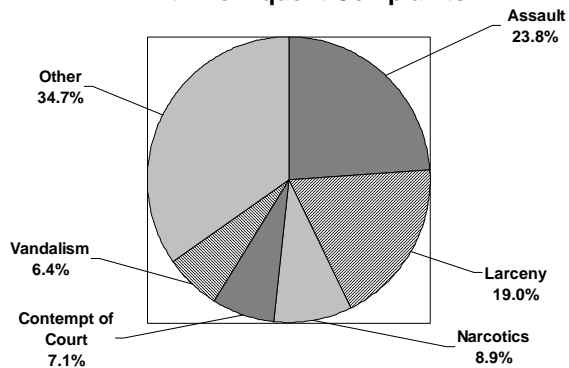
The offenses for which children are charged has also changed little. As represented in the chart, in 2002, the largest offense categories were assault (10,542 cases), larceny (8,407), narcotics (3,956), contempt of court (3,121), and vandalism (2,847). These same five offenses were the largest offense categories in 1998.

Together they represent 65% of delinquent cases.

An examination of the age distribution of assault cases, which represent one-quarter of all cases with delinquent complaints, reveals that many of the children are very young offenders. The age distribution is depicted graphically in the chart.

In 2002, 41% of cases where

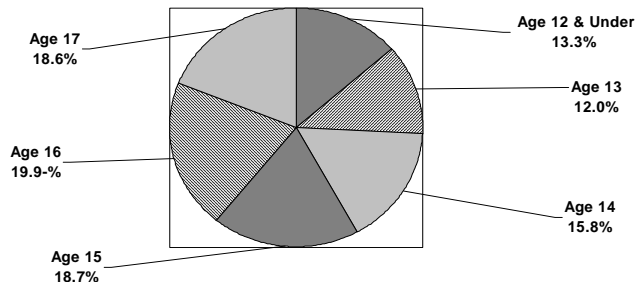
**Offense Distribution of Intake Cases  
with Delinquent Complaints**



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice  
Data for Fairfax missing

Prepared by Juvenile Services Section, DCJS

**Age Distribution of Delinquent Intake Cases  
- Most Serious Offense, Assault, FY2002**



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice      Prepared by Juvenile Services Section, DCJS

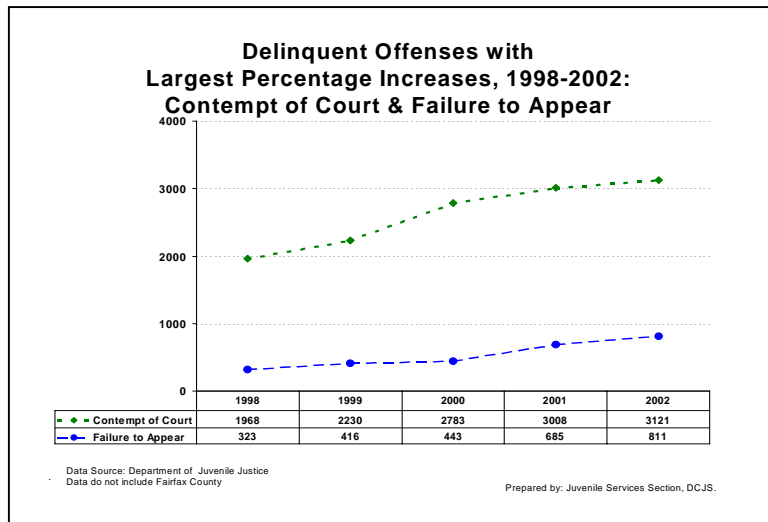
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

assault was the most serious offense were aged 14 and under; 14% were aged 12 and under.

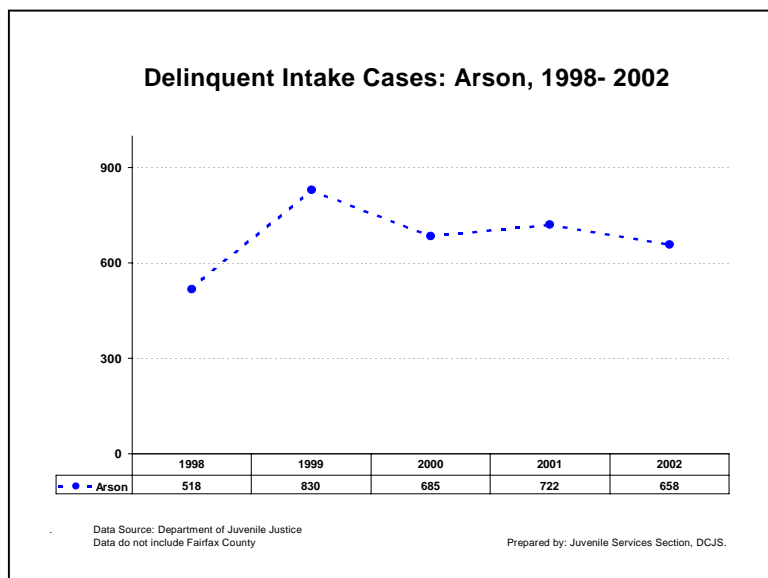
There has been little change in this percentage over the 1998-2002 period with only a 3% decrease in the aged 14 and under proportion.

### Offenses with Increasing Trends

The largest percentage increases in number of cases over the five-year period were for failure to appear and contempt of court cases. Those data are depicted graphically below.



As the chart shows, failure to appear more than doubled from 323 in 1998 to 811 in 2002 (up 151%). Contempt of court cases increased 59% from 1968 in 1998 to 3121 in 2002.

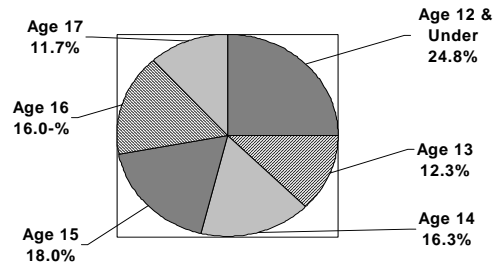


Among the more serious offenses, arson and sexual assault showed increases over the five-year period.

The total number of delinquent arson cases for the period 1998-2002 is shown in the graph on the left. Although the trend from 1999 is downward, arson cases have increased by 27% from 518 in 1998 to 658 in 2002.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

**Age Distribution of Delinquent Intake Cases  
- Most Serious Offense, Arson, FY2002**



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

Prepared by Juvenile Services Section, DCJS

The graph on the left shows the age distribution of arson cases. Over half of children brought to intake for arson complaints are 14 years of age or under. One-quarter of them are 12 and under.

Intake cases where the most serious offense is sexual assault have increased by 20% over the past five years from 560 in 1998 to 670 in 2002.

**Delinquent Intake Cases: Sexual Assault:  
1998- 2002:**

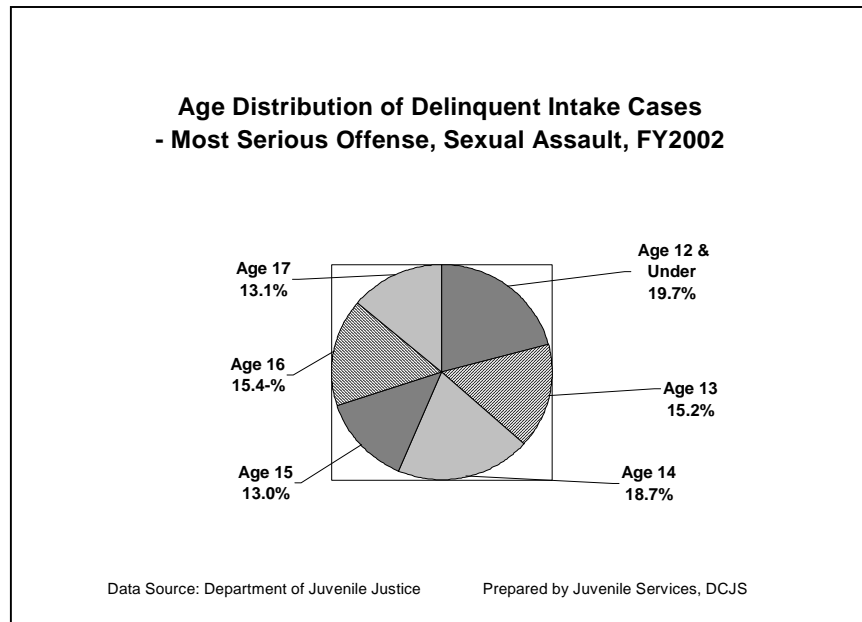


Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice  
Data do not include Fairfax County

Prepared by: Juvenile Services Section, DCJS.

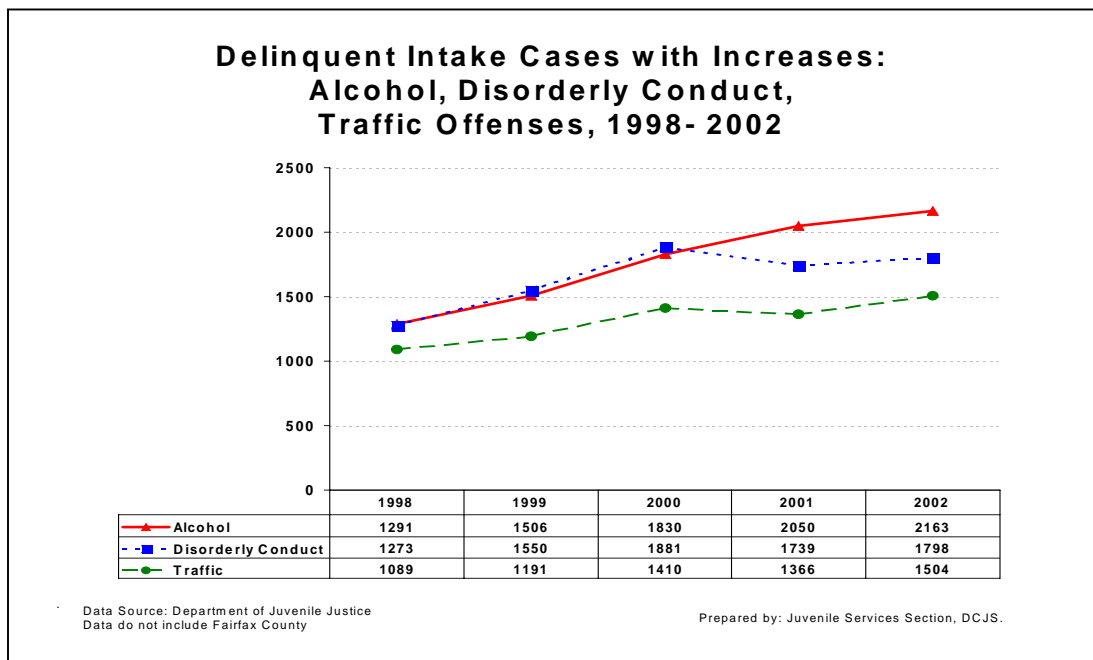
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

Like arsonists, the majority of sexual offenders are very young. As shown in the right graph, over half are 14 years of age and under and 20% are 12 or under.



There were other offenses with substantial increases. Alcohol offenses, disorderly conduct, and traffic offenses all showed an increasing trend, as depicted in the chart below.

Cases brought to intake for alcohol offenses increased 68% from 1291 in 1998 to 2163 in 2002. Alcohol offenders are mainly white juveniles. Overall, about 52% of delinquent intake cases are classified as white; however, about 81% of cases



where the most serious offense is an alcohol offense are classified as white.

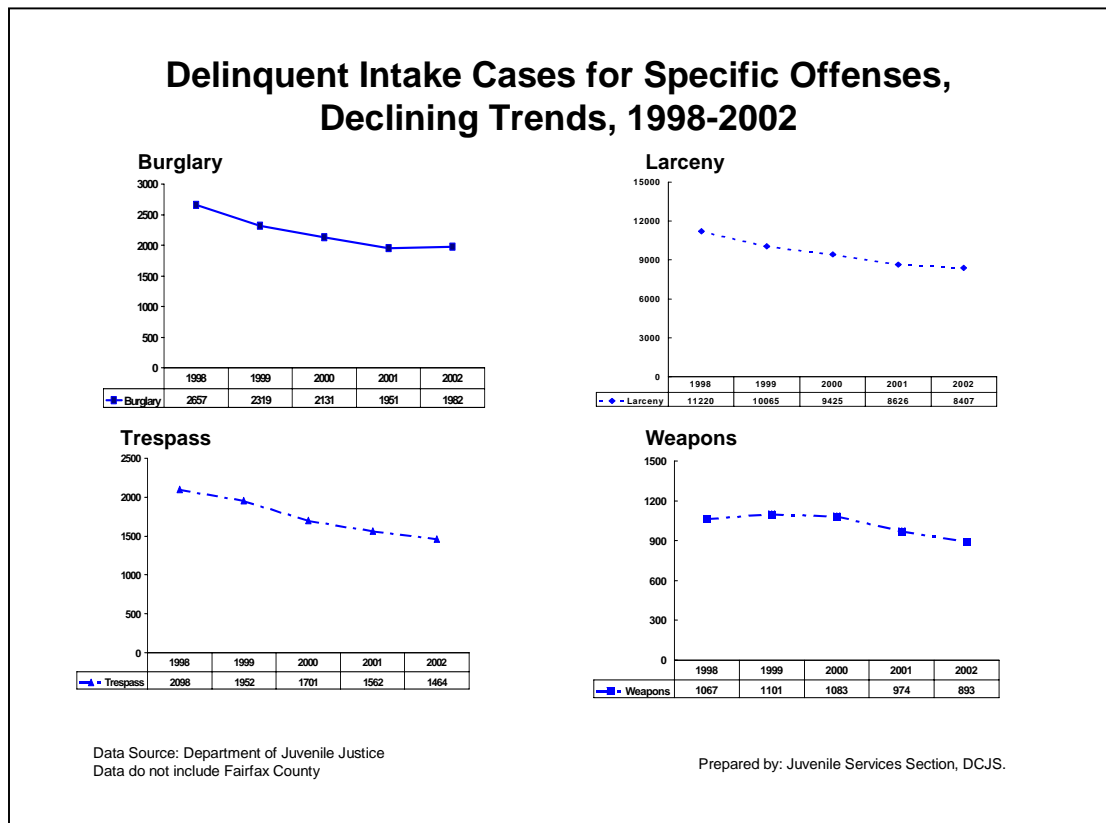
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

Cases with disorderly conduct complaints increased 41% from 1273 to 1798 over the five years. In contrast to alcohol offenses, cases where disorderly conduct is the most serious offense are mainly minority juveniles. About 62% of cases are classified as minority compared to 48% overall.

Cases for traffic offenses increased 38% from 1089 to 1504.

### Offenses with Decreasing Trends

Not all types of offenses showed increasing patterns. Cases where the most serious offense was burglary, larceny, trespassing, or weapons offenses showed decreasing trends. Those data are depicted below.



Burglary and larceny, shown in uppermost graphs, have both declined by about 25% over the five-year period. Burglary declined from 2657 in 1998 to 1982 in 2002. Cases with trespassing as the most serious offense declined by 30% from 2098 to 1464. For weapons cases, shown on the lower right, the decline was 16% from 1067 to 893.

### Demographics on Cases - Most Serious Offense is a Delinquent Offense

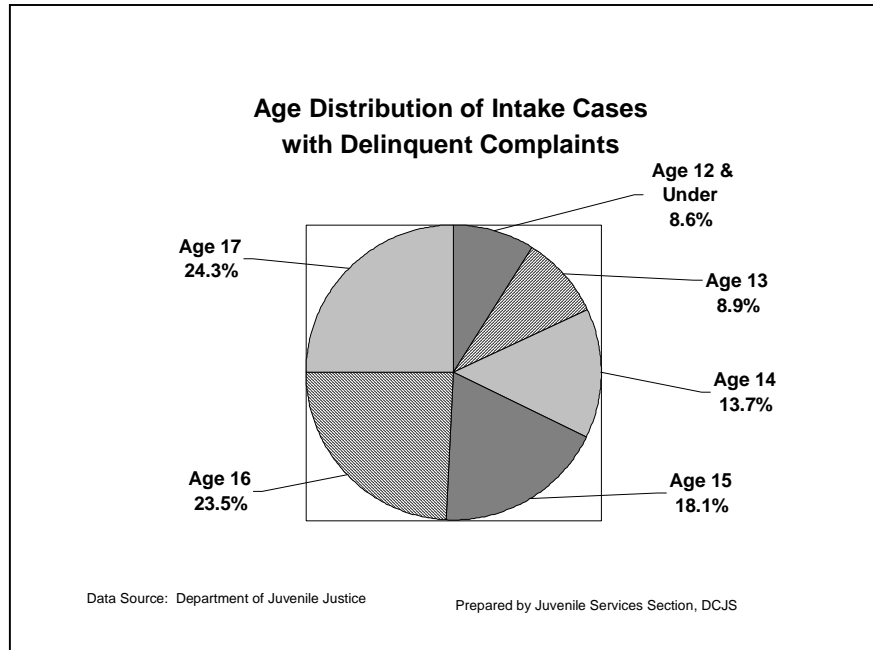
This section contains data about the age, racial composition, and gender of intake cases including cases where the most serious offense is a delinquent offense.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Age

The number of young children having contact with the juvenile justice system has been a concern for several years. Over the period 1998 to 2002, there has been little change. There is a 3.5% decrease, from about 14,300 to about 13,800, in children aged 14 and under coming to intake with delinquent complaints.



As shown in the graph, these young children represent nearly a third - 31.4% - of children brought to intake for delinquent offenses.

### ***Offenses of Young Juvenile Offenders***

As noted above, children aged 14 and under represent 31.2% of all delinquent intake cases. They are disproportionately represented in some offenses - arson, assault, and sexual assault - where they represent 53, 41, and 54% respectively of cases. Relative to their overall proportion, they are underrepresented in alcohol and narcotics offenses representing 14 and 17% of cases respectively.

### **Racial and Gender Composition**

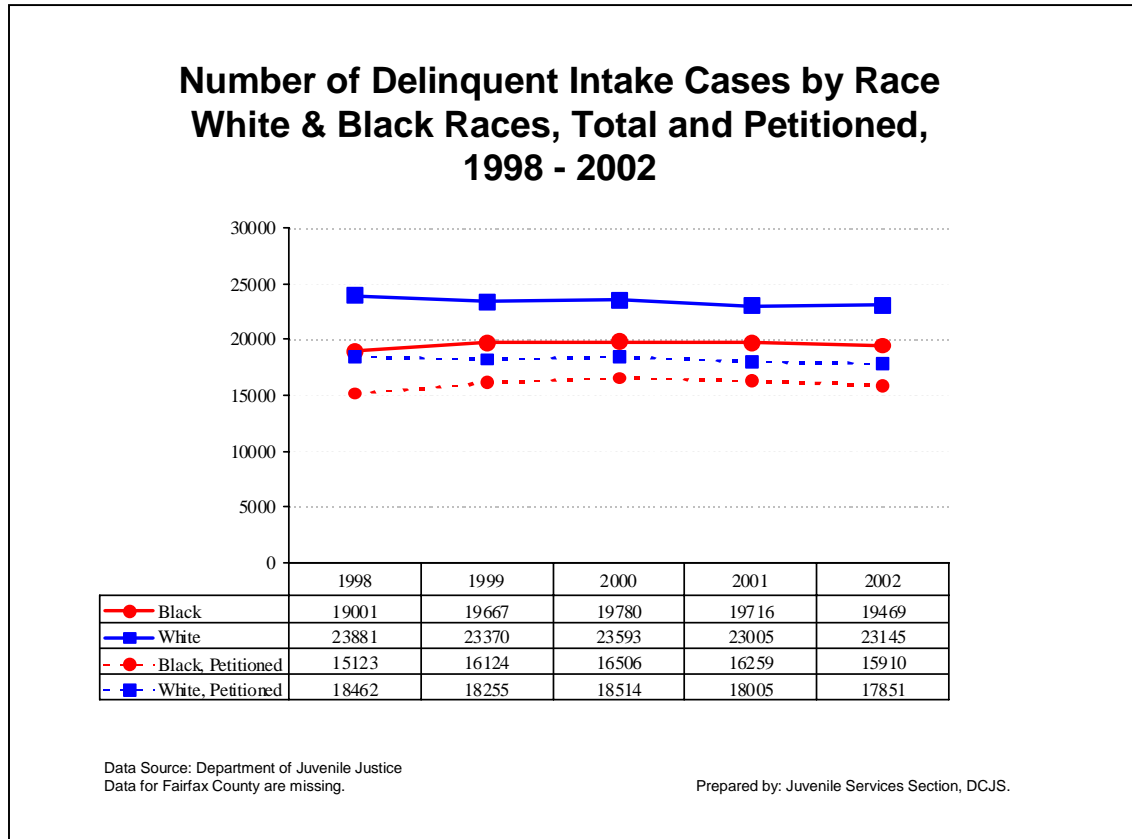
#### ***Racial Composition***

The at-risk juvenile population, aged 10-17, in Virginia is about 65% white. Offenders in cases brought to intake with a delinquent complaint as the most serious offense are about 50% white. Black juveniles are consistently overrepresented at intake whereas other minorities – Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders -- are underrepresented.

Both the number and percentages of white, black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and other minority cases, are shown in the graphs. A small percentage (less than 1%) classified as of *unknown race* has been omitted. In all figures, the solid lines represent total cases, the dotted lines are petitioned.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

The data for cases classified as black and white are shown separately from the data for cases classified as Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Other to enable the small numbers of the latter three categories to be accurately depicted. The first graph shows the number of white and black cases, total and petitioned. As



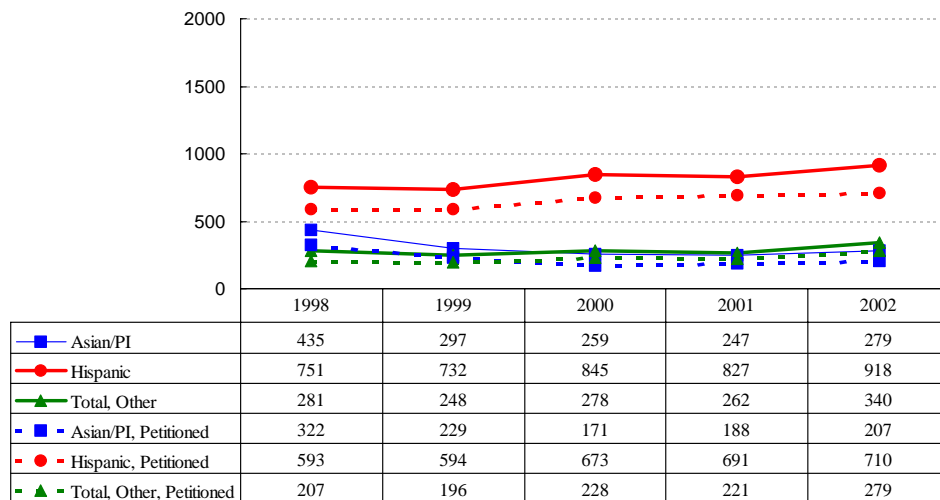
the graph shows, there has been little change over the five-year period.

The next graph shows the data for cases classified as Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Other. For this graph, Other includes American Indian/Alaskan Native of which there are few.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

The axis on this graph ranges from 0 to 2,000 whereas the axis for the black/white graph ranges from 0 to 30,000. There have been increases in the number of Hispanic juveniles brought to intake and petitioned; however, their numbers are relatively few. They have increased from 1.7 to 2.1% of the total

**Number of Delinquent Intake Cases by Race  
Other Minority Races, Total and Petitioned,  
1998 - 2002**

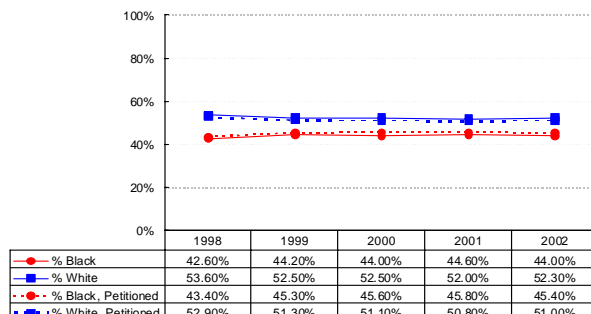


Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice  
Data for Fairfax County are missing.

Prepared by: Juvenile Services Section, DCJS.

intake cases. Data for the other categories shows little change.

**Percentage of Delinquent Intake Cases  
White & Black Races, Total and Petitioned,  
1998 - 2002**



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice  
Data for Fairfax County are missing.

Prepared by: Juvenile Services Section, DCJS.

The next figure shows that, although black juveniles are disproportionately represented at intake, over-representation is not increased at the petitioning stage. The graph provides the percentage of total and the total petitioned delinquent intake cases for juveniles classified as black and white. The percentages are quite close. For 2002,

about 44% of juveniles brought to intake for delinquent complaints are black;

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

about 45% of petitioned cases are for black juveniles. Similarly, cases classified as white, constitute about 52% of the total intake delinquent cases and about 51% of petitioned, cases.

As the graph shows, there has been little change in these percentages over the five-year period.

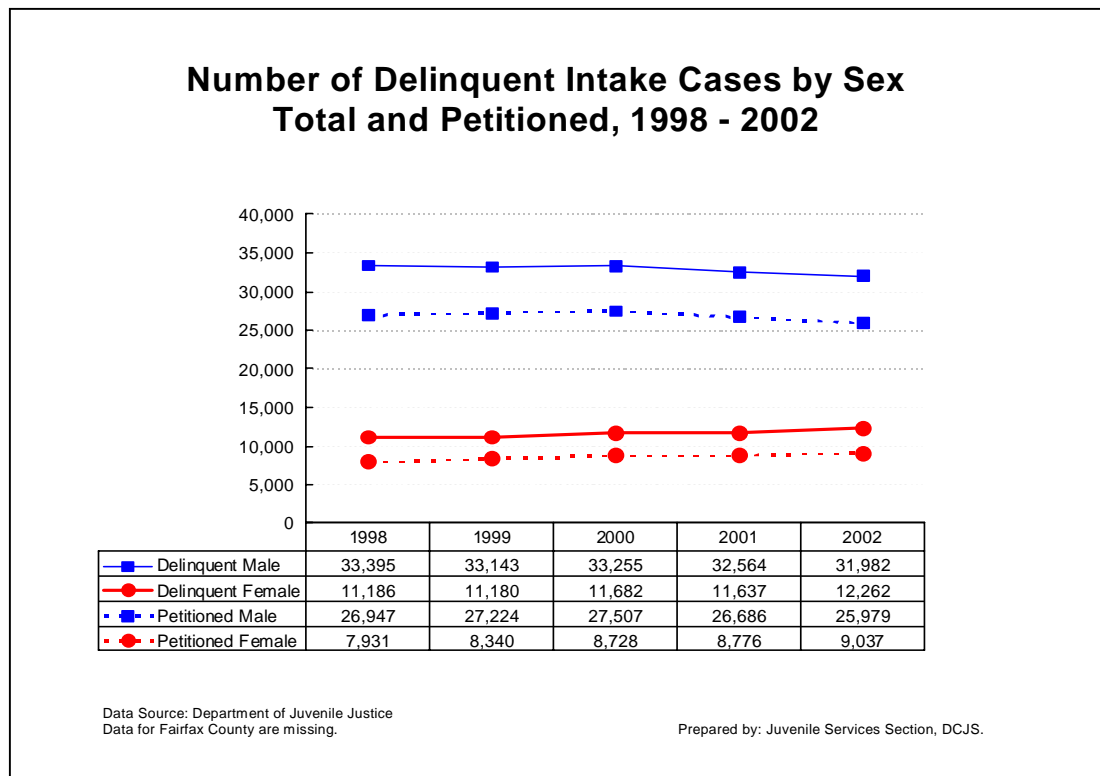
Cases classified as Hispanic represent less than 2% of the total; cases classified as Asian/PI and Other represent less than 1% each. There has been no change in the pattern over the five years for total percentage or percentage petitioned.

### ***Offenses of Minority and White Juveniles***

As noted above, minority juveniles are over-represented in disorderly conduct and failure to appear cases. They are also over-represented in robbery cases, constituting 83% of those cases compared to their baseline of 48%. White juveniles are over-represented in alcohol offenses. For all of these offenses, this is a trend that is evident for at least the past five years.

### ***Gender Composition***

The percentage of intake cases with delinquent complaints, by gender, is shown in the graph below. The solid lines represent total cases and the dotted lines petitioned cases.



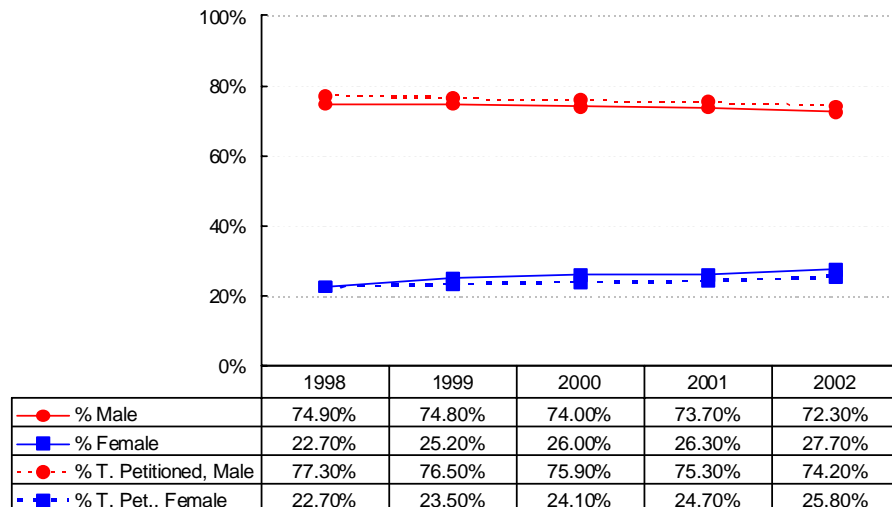
As the graph shows, there has been a small shift in the gender distribution with the number of females increasing by about 10% and the number of males

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

decreasing by about 4% over the five-year period. In 2002, males were 72% of delinquent intake cases, about 2% less than they were in 1998.

The graph below provides percentile information for total and petitioned cases, by sex. As the data show, males are somewhat more likely to be petitioned than females - for males the percentage petitioned is greater than the total percentage; for females the reverse is true. In 2002, about 81% of males were petitioned compared to about 74% of females.

**Percentage of Delinquent Intake Cases  
By Sex, Total and Petitioned, 1998 - 2002**



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice  
Data for Fairfax County are missing.

Prepared by: Juvenile Services Section, DCJS.

### ***Offenses of Males and Females***

In 2002, the baseline for delinquent cases was about 74% male and 26% female. This did vary by offense. Males were more likely than baseline to be brought to intake where the most serious offense was arson, burglary, or narcotics. Although still less than males, females were more likely than their baseline to be brought in for assault, contempt of court, and disorderly conduct.

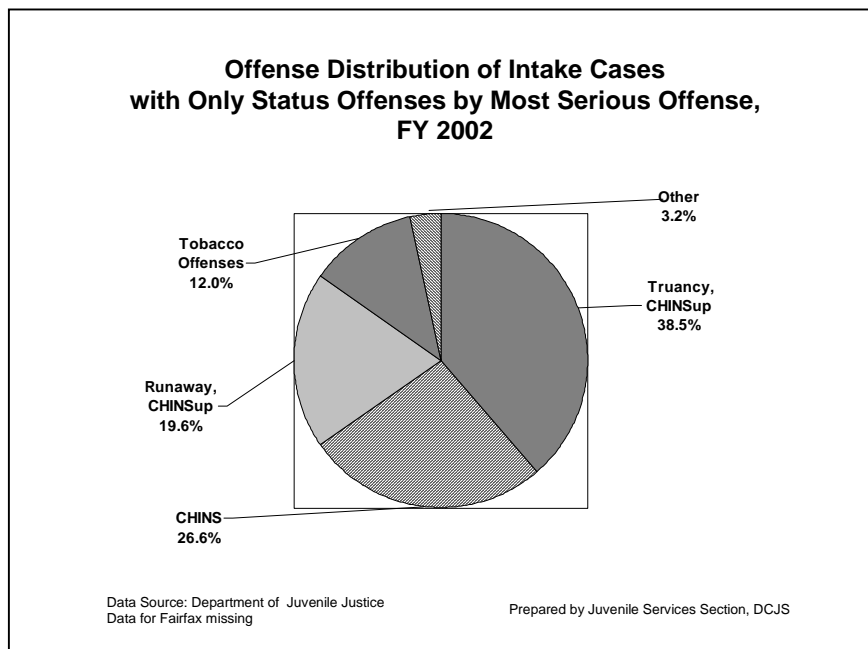
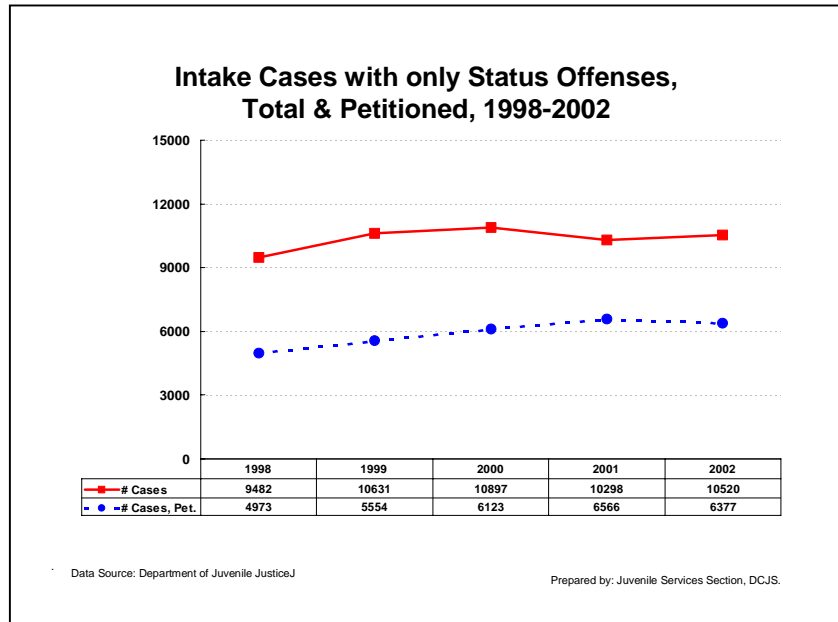
Males are more likely than females to be petitioned for larceny, narcotics, and weapons offenses. However, there was no gender difference in petitioning for assault, the largest offense category.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE – CASES WITH ONLY STATUS OFFENSES

This section concerns cases involving only status complaints. Status cases have offenses such as runaway complaints, purchase or possession of tobacco by a minor, children in need of services (CHINS), and truancy. Were the offender an adult, the acts would not be offenses, hence it is the age status of the offender that determines that it is an offense.

The total cases involving only status complaints and the cases, of that total, which were petitioned to court are shown in the graph. The number of cases has increased by 1,038 in five years from 9482 to 10520, representing an increase of about 11%. The number petitioned has increased by 1404 cases from 4973 in 1998 to 6377 in 2002. That represents an increase of 28%.

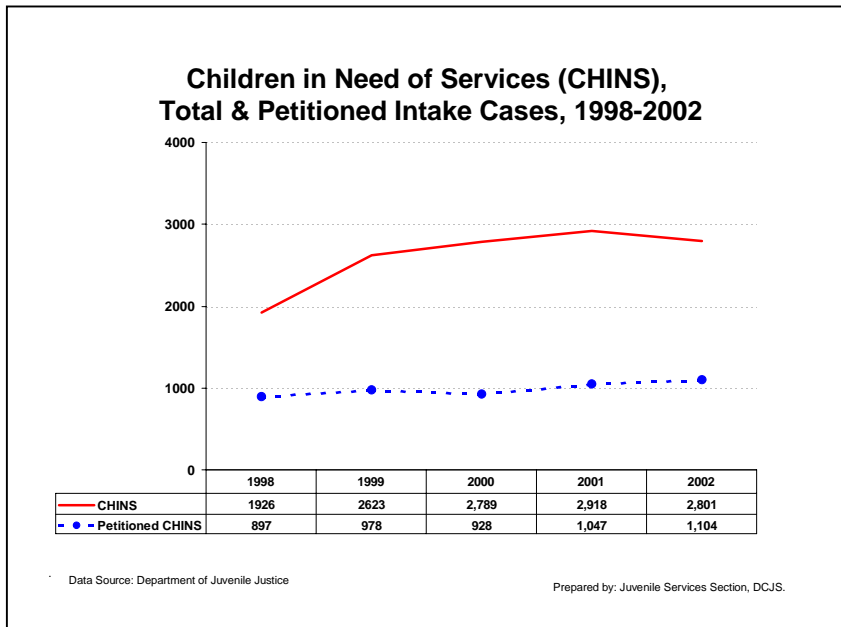


As the graph shows, most status offense cases are for children brought to intake for four reasons: tobacco offenses, running away, those classified as children in need of services, and those classified as children in need of supervision who are truants.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

Together, the four categories account for 97% of children brought to intake with only status offenses. Children in need of supervision because of truancy account for almost 40% of cases; children in need of supervision because they have run away account for another 20%, children in need of services for other reasons account for 27%, and children brought for purchase or possession of tobacco account for 12%.

The increase seen in total number of cases is due to two categories: children in need of services and children in need of supervision because of truancy. Those data are shown in the graphs below.



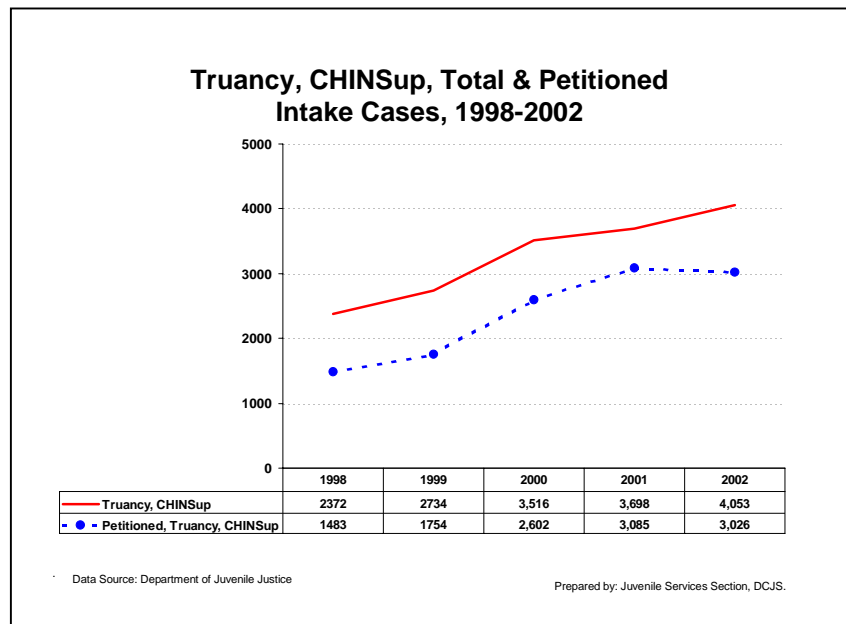
The number of cases of children in need of services has increased by about 900 cases from 1926 in 1998 to 2801 in 2002, an increase of 45%.

Many are very young children. About half of children in need of services are aged 14 and under. Eight percent are aged 10 and under. About half are classified as white; the rest are

minority children.

The number of CHINS cases petitioned has increased from 897 to 1104, an increase of 23%. In 2002, about 40% of cases were petitioned to court.

The number of children brought to intake and petitioned to court for truancy has increased dramatically since

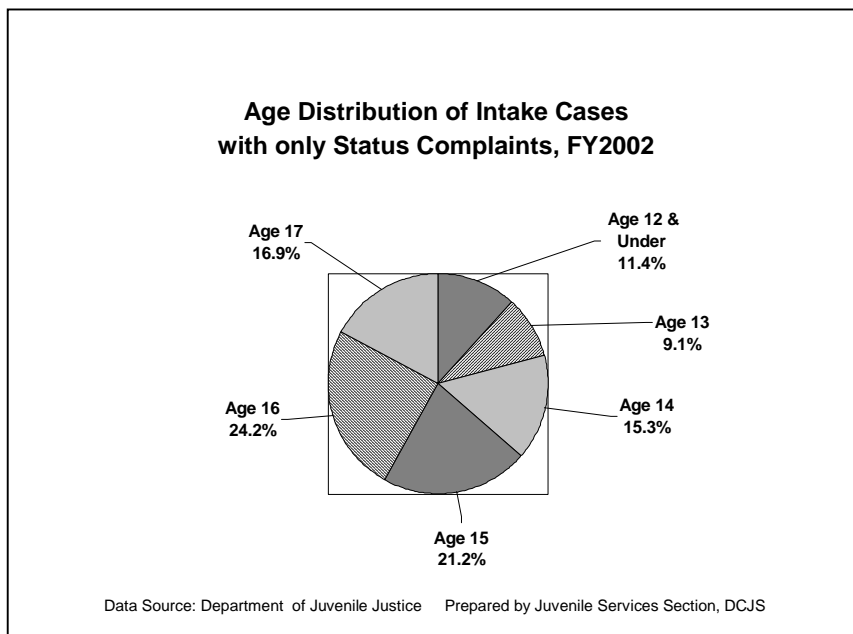
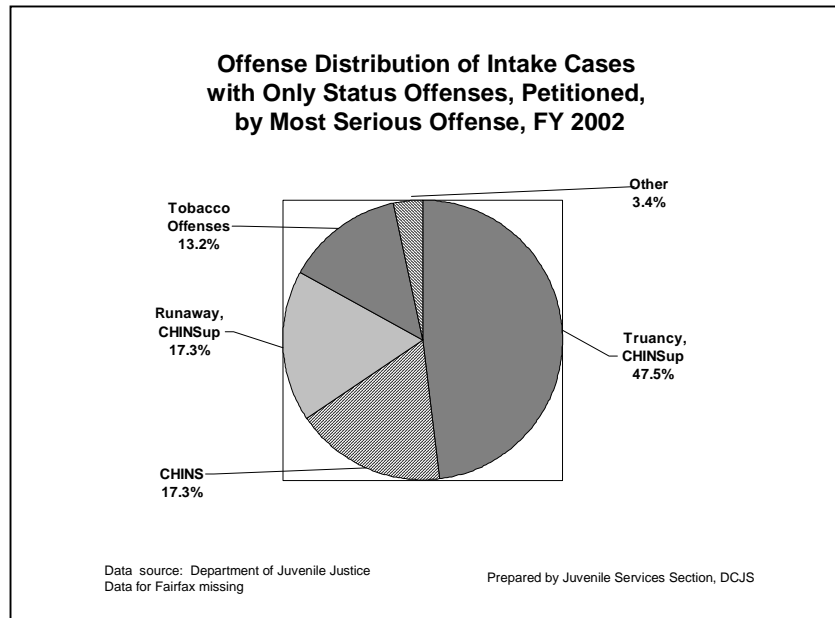


## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

the change in the legislation in 1999<sup>1</sup>, as the graph shows. The number of cases has increased from 2372 to 4053 in five years, an increase of 71%. About 36% of truants are aged 14 and under; 5% are aged 10 and under. The majority -- about 60% -- are classified as white.

The increase in the total number of status offenses petitioned over the five years is due almost entirely to the increase in the number of petitioned truants.

Overall, about 60% of cases with only status offenses are petitioned to court but 75% of truancy cases are petitioned. The distribution of petitioned status offense cases is depicted in the graph. As can be seen, truancy cases account for a disproportionate number of petitioned status offense cases.



### Demographics on Cases - Status Offenses Only

#### Age

As might be expected, the number of very young children coming to intake for status offenses is even greater than for delinquent offenses. In 2002, 36% of intake cases with only

<sup>1</sup> In 1999, the Code of Virginia was amended to require that each school go through a prescribed series of steps to handle truants. The final step is a petition to court. One consequence of the law was to eliminate the practice of punishing truants by expulsion. It also requires schools to attend to truants before their behavior becomes chronic.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

status offenses were for children aged 14 and under. This percentage has been stable since 1998. As noted above, the age distribution varies somewhat by offense, with children in need of services tending to be younger and runaways and children charged with tobacco violations tending to be older.

### Racial and Gender Composition: Intake Cases with Only Status Complaints

#### ***Racial Composition - Status Offense Only Cases***

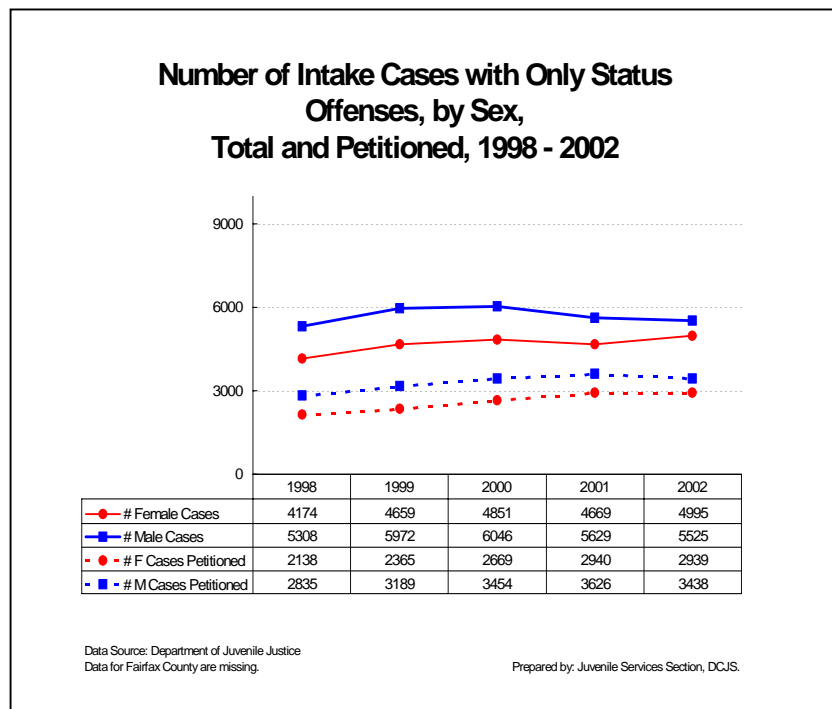
Black children continue to be over-represented in status offense cases. Children classified as black comprised 35.1% of cases in 1998 and 37% in 2002. Their portion of the at-risk population is about 24%. The racial composition of intake cases involving only status offenses has changed slightly over the period 1998 to 2002 with the percentage of children classified as white decreasing by about 3% and the percentage of children classified as black increasing by about 2%. In 1998, children classified as white comprised 61% of cases; in 2002 they comprised 58.1%. Their portion in the at-risk population is about 65%. Hispanics increased from 2.0% to 2.9% over the five-year period. Cases classified as Asian/PI, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Other Races each represent less than 1% of cases.

The overrepresentation is not increased at the petitioning stage. About 37% of children brought to intake for status offenses only are classified as black; about 36% of petitioned cases are classified as black. There is but one minor differentiation and that is for CHINS cases. About 52% of CHINS cases brought to intake are classified white; about 61% of petitioned CHINS cases are classified white. This pattern of an increased portion of children classified as white being petitioned in CHINS cases holds for only the last three of five years.

#### ***Gender Composition - Status Offense Only Cases***

The gender composition of intake cases involving only status complaints is shown in the chart.

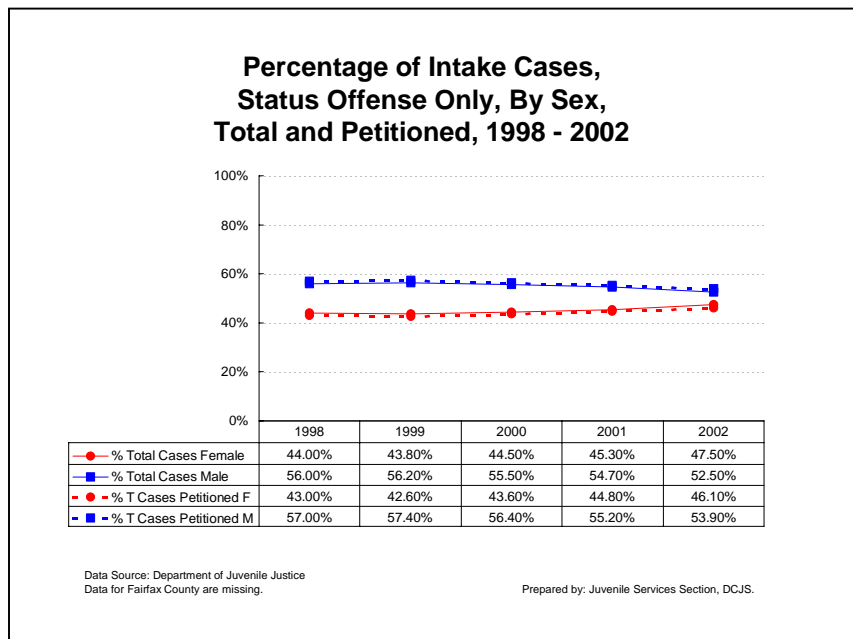
As with the delinquent intake cases, there has been a shift in the gender distribution such that the number



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

of females has increased at a faster rate than the number of males. With status intake cases, the number of females has increased by about 20% whereas the number of males has increased by about 4% only.

Males are more likely to be brought to intake for purchase or possession of tobacco than are females. In contrast, females are more likely to be brought to intake as children in need of supervision because they are runaways.



The graph to the left provides percentile information for total and petitioned cases, by sex.

In 2002, the baseline for status offense only cases was about 48% female and 52% male. Both males and females are about as likely as their baseline intake percentage to be petitioned.

### SUMMARY: INTAKE CASES

About two-thirds of children coming to intake have prior offenses. Many are quite young – about a third are aged 14 and under. These young children are disproportionately represented in some offenses - arson, assault, and sexual assault. Black juveniles are consistently over-represented at intake for both delinquent and status offenses.

Delinquent cases, which represent more than two-thirds of juvenile intake cases, show little change in number, number petitioned to court, or offense distribution over the past five years. Assault, larceny, narcotics, contempt of court, and vandalism were the largest offense categories in 1998 and remain the largest offense categories in 2002. They represent 65% of delinquent intake cases.

The largest percentage increases in delinquent cases over the five-year period were shown by failure to appear and contempt of court cases, both technical violations. Arson, sexual assault, and disorderly conduct also showed increases. Decreasing trends were shown for cases where the most serious offense was burglary, larceny, trespassing, or weapons offenses.

## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

Most status offense cases are for children brought to intake for tobacco offenses, running away, as children in need of services, or truancy. The increase shown in the number of status offense cases over the past five years is due to two offenses: children in need of services and children in need of supervision because of truancy. Truancy cases account for a disproportionate number of petitioned status offense cases. The increase in the total number of status offenses petitioned over the five years is due almost entirely to the increase in the number of petitioned truants.

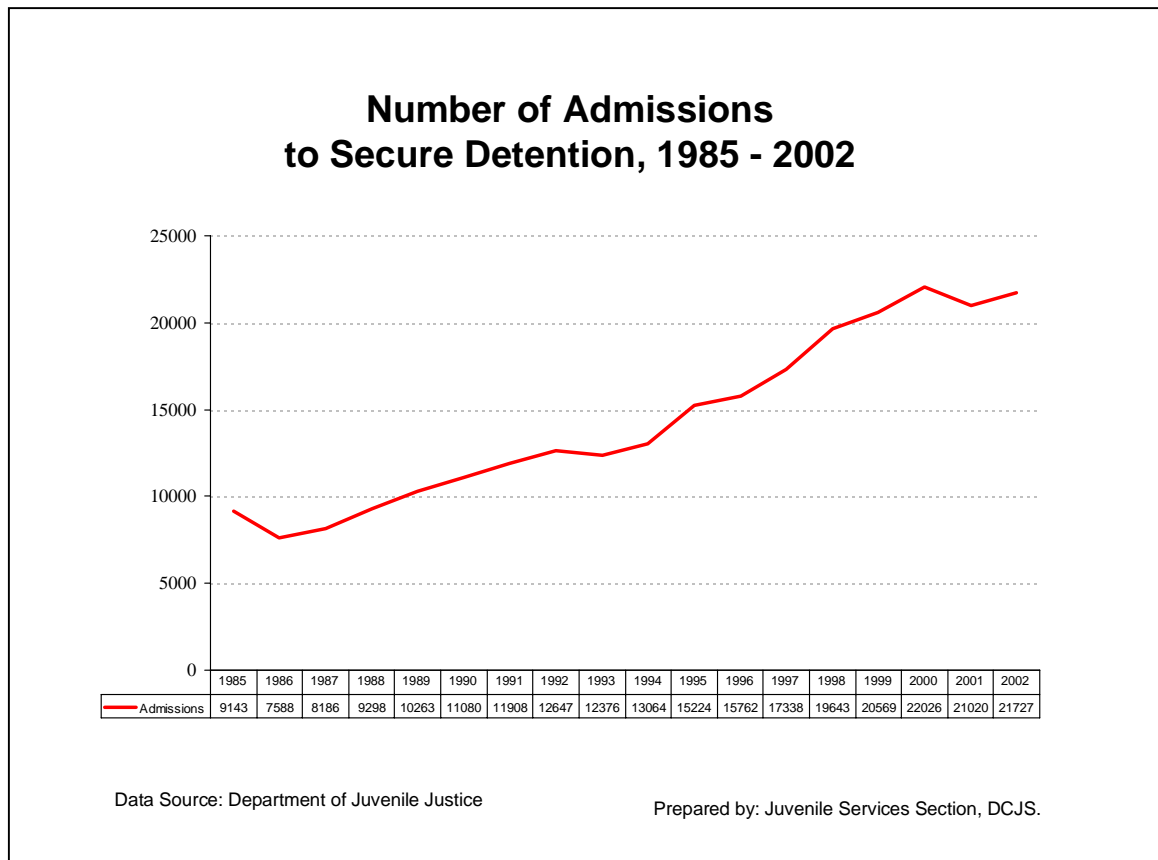
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### IV: SECURE DETENTION

Secure detention facilities are locked residential facilities structurally designed to prevent escapes and restrict movement. They provide secure confinement for juveniles who are awaiting adjudication (pre-dispositional), and local confinement services for adjudicated youth (post-dispositional). In 2002, 81% of admissions to secure detention facilities were predispositional<sup>2</sup>.

Sentencing may be for up to six months. Juveniles are also placed in secure detention by a judge for a specified number of days for technical offenses such as violation of a court order, failure to appear at trial, or contempt of court.

Information on average daily population, admissions, and population demographics for juvenile secure detention facilities is presented in this section. The data for detention admissions does include Fairfax County. A child may have more than one detention admission during a detention placement by being placed in a facility and transferred in and out of that facility or to another facility. The 21,727 admissions in 2002 represent 12,703 juveniles, of whom 8,078, or



<sup>2</sup> Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2003). *Data Resource Guide, Fiscal Year 2002*, Richmond, VA.

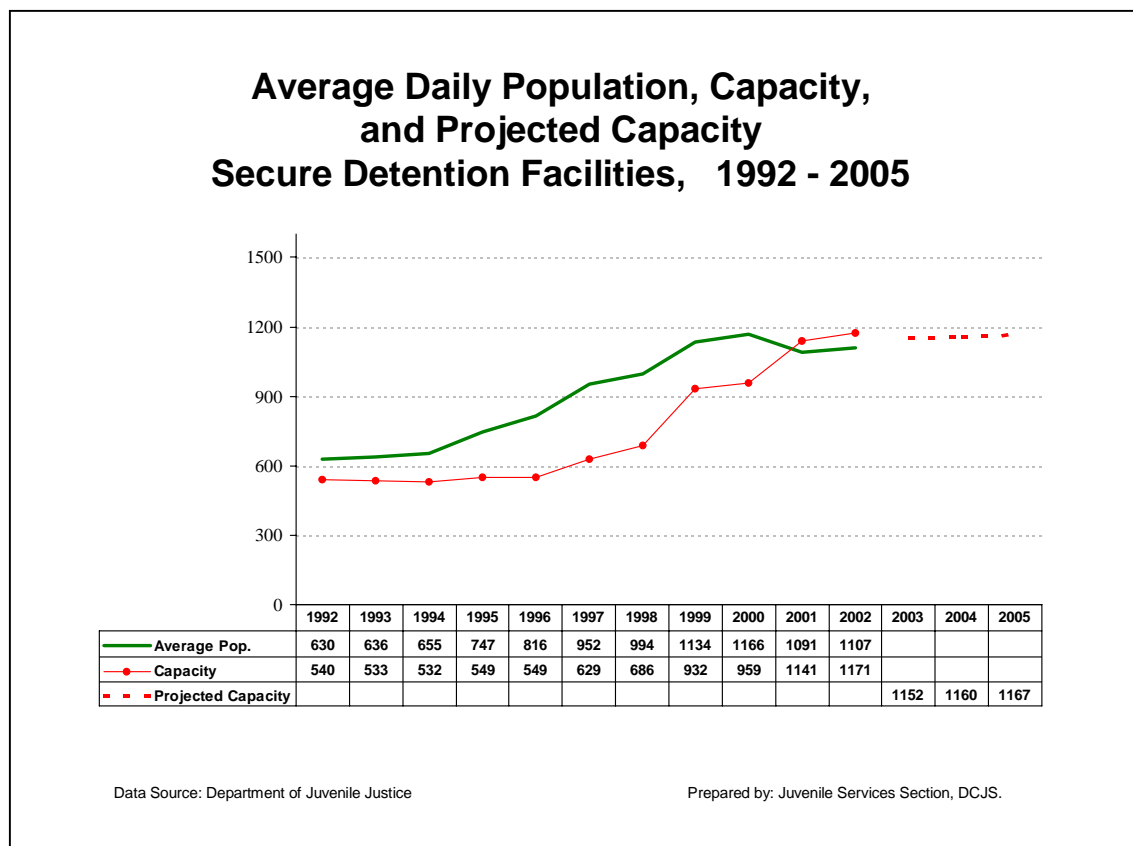
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

about two-thirds, were admitted only one time.

The number of juveniles admitted to secure detention for the 18-year period 1985 to 1999 is shown in the graph. Although the number of admissions has decreased slightly over the past three years, overall the number has more than doubled during the period shown from 9143 in 1985 to 21,727 in 2002. An 11% increase is shown in the most recent five-year period.

### AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION, CAPACITY, AND PROJECTED CAPACITY

The chart below shows the average daily population, capacity, and projected capacity of secure detention facilities.



In the ten-year period, 1993-2002, the average daily population of secure detention facilities has increased by 74%; however, in the most recent three years, the numbers admitted have decreased slightly.

Capacity has increased by 120% in the ten-year period, and by 71% in the last five years. The long-term trend of average population consistently exceeding capacity has reversed with more available beds than admissions in 2002.

In Virginia's last three-year plan, we reported that the Department of Juvenile Justice was embarking on a plan to increase the number of secure detention

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

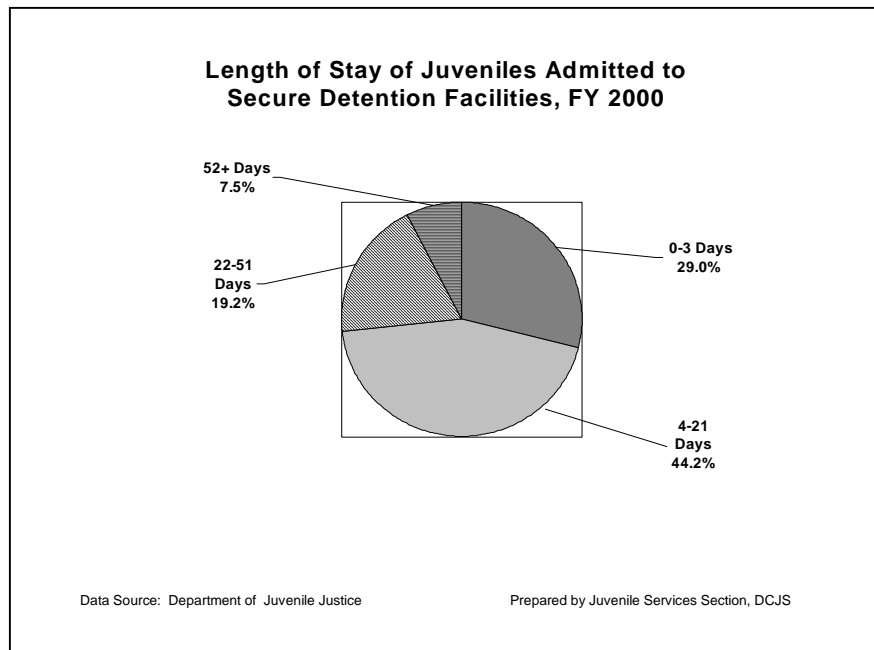
beds to over 1500 by 2002. As the graph shows, their most recent forecast indicates that they have reduced those projections.

### LENGTH OF STAY

Most juveniles are detained in secure detention facilities for less than three weeks. The average length of stay is depicted below. The data were taken from a 2001 report by the Department of Juvenile Justice<sup>3</sup>. Intervals shown are consistent with statutes in the Code of Virginia.

As the pie chart shows, 29% of admissions are for three days or less; another 44% are for 4 days to 3 weeks, 19% are for 3 weeks to 51 days (about 7 ½ weeks) and the remaining 8% are for more than 52 days.

Once detained, juveniles must appear before a judge on the next day on which the court sits, not to exceed 72 hours (3 days). The length of stay is typically determined by the judge; however, a juvenile must be released from secure detention if there is no adjudicatory or transfer hearing within 21 days from the initial date of detention.

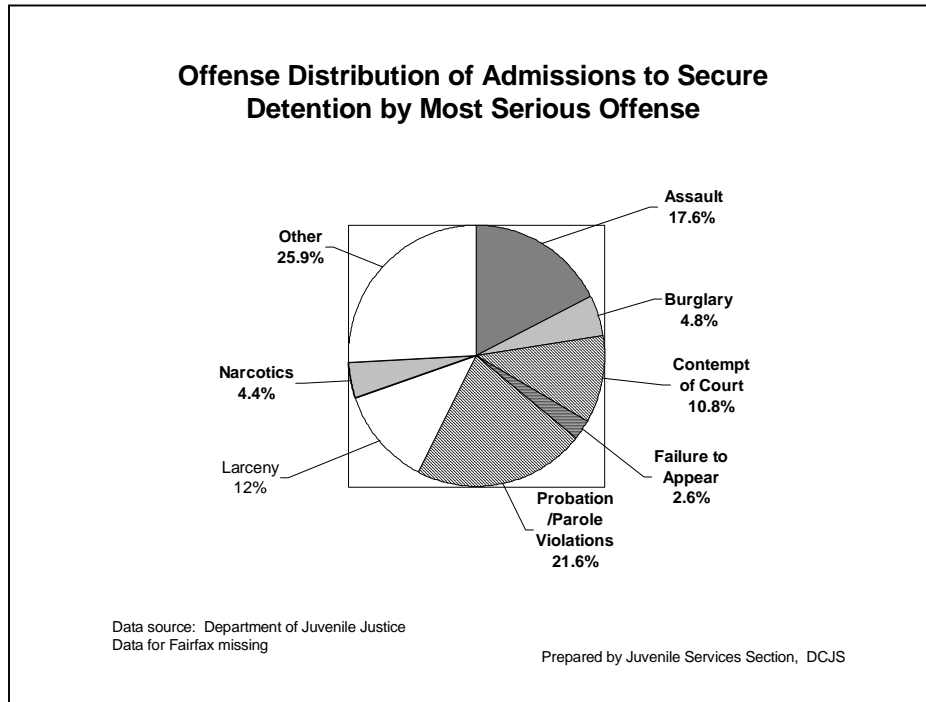


<sup>3</sup> Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2001). *Juvenile detention: What's going on in Virginia: Utilization of pre-dispositional juvenile detention in Virginia, Fiscal year 2000*. Richmond, VA

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### ADMISSIONS FOR SPECIFIC OFFENSES: SECURE DETENTION

Relatively few offenses account for the majority of the 21,727 admissions in 2002. Seven offenses account for 75% of admissions. They are depicted in the pie chart. The



largest categories were technical violations, shown by the cross-hatched pattern in the chart. Together, the three technical violations -- probation/parole violations, contempt of court, and failure to appear -- account for

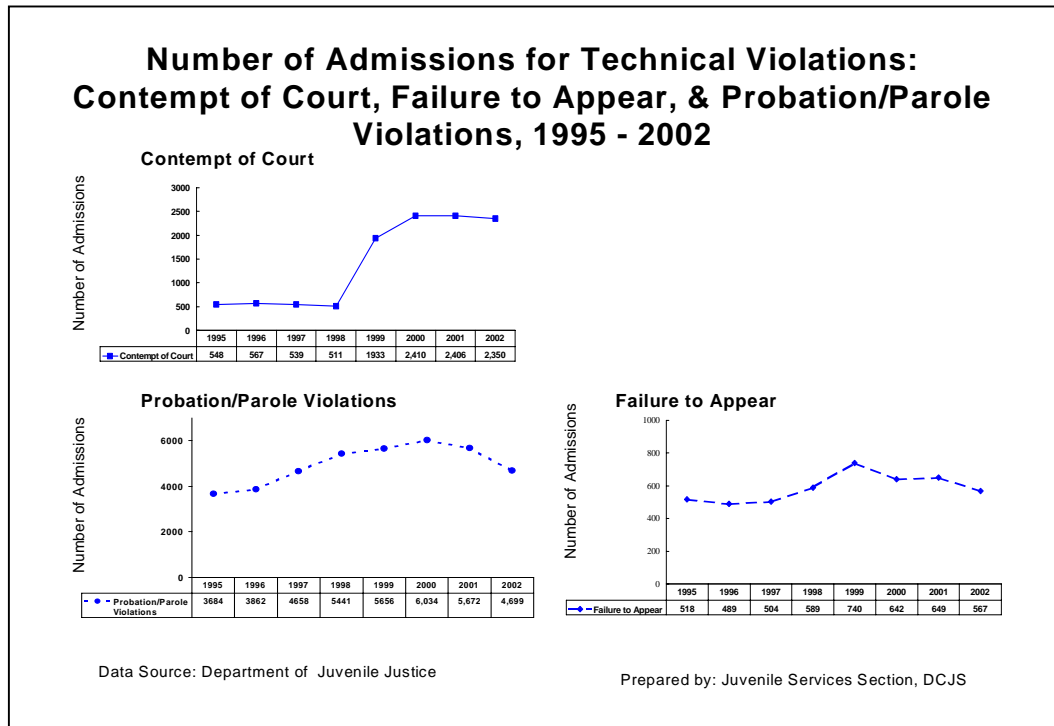
35% of admissions. These are admissions for which the child has not committed a new offense. This is not a new trend. Technical offenses were the largest category in the last Three-Year Plan.

The other major categories are assault which accounted for about 18%, larceny 12%, narcotics 4%, and burglary 5%.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Technical Violations

The number of admissions for technical violations since 1995 is shown in the graphs below. Notice that the scales for the three graphs differ widely to permit



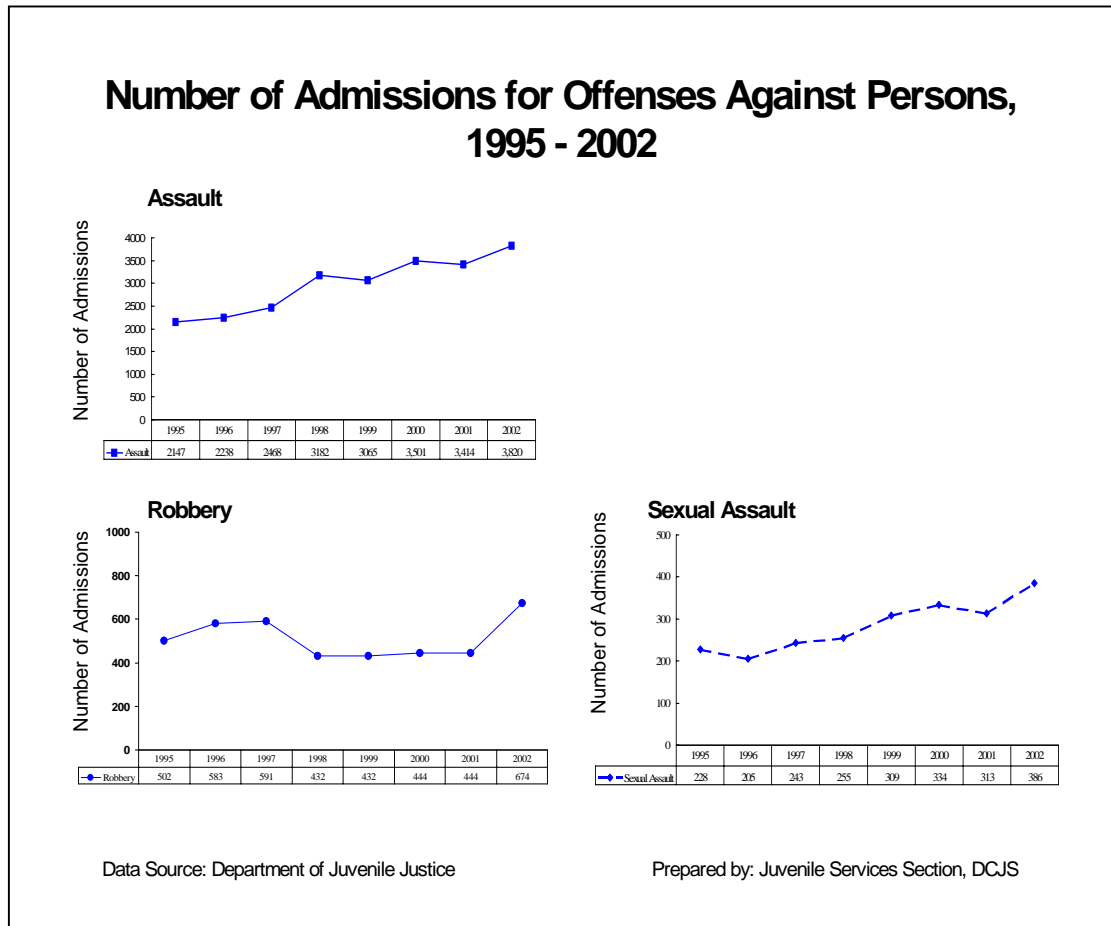
wn in the upper left figure, have more than quadrupled from 548 in 1995 to 2350 in 2002. This increase has occurred since 1998. Probation/parole violation admissions showed a 64% increase from 1995 to 2000. However, they seem to have leveled off, with a 22% decrease shown over the last three years. Admissions for failure to appear, shown in the lower right, have moderated somewhat after an increase from 1995 to 1999.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Offenses Against Persons

The following figure shows trend data for assault, robbery, and sexual assault.

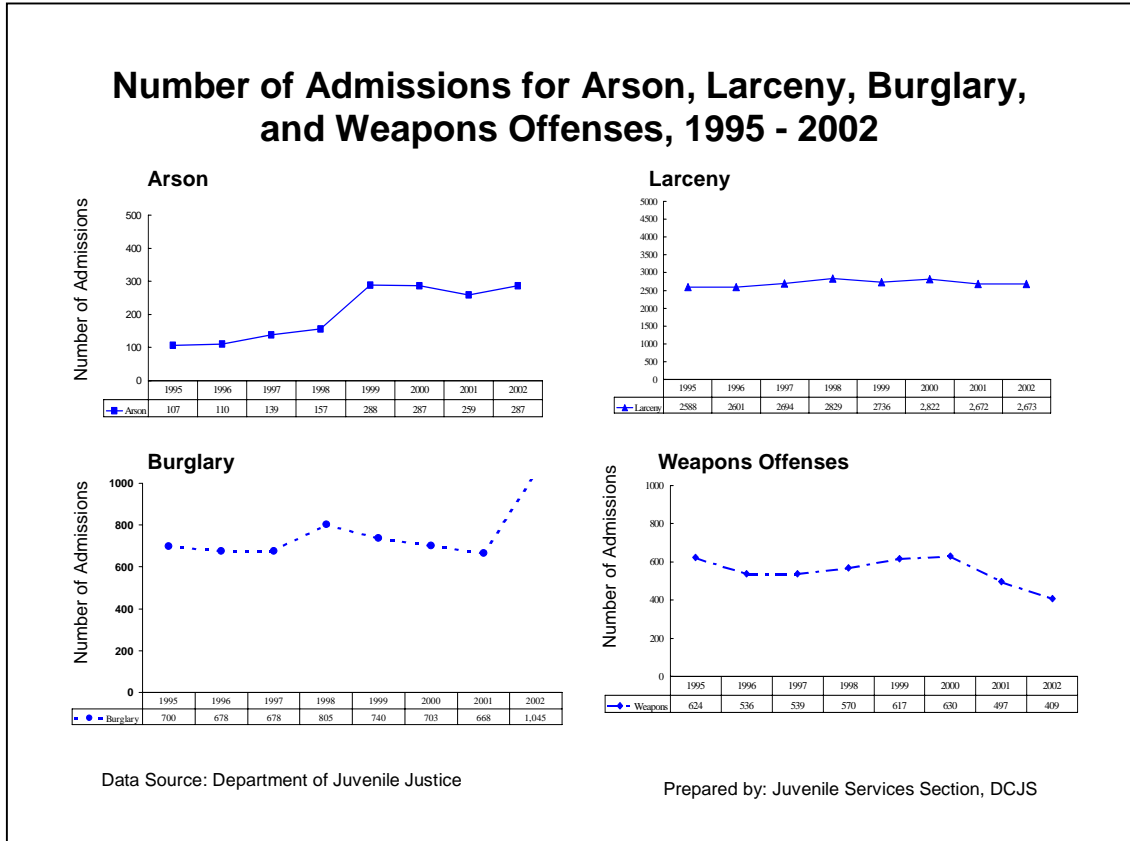


As in the other graphs with multiple figures, the axes for the figures vary. Admissions for assault, shown in the upper left figure, have almost doubled, showing an increase of 78% from 2147 to 3820 since 1995. They have increased by 20% in the past three years. Robbery admissions are quite variable. Overall, they show an increase of 34% over seven years, but a 52% increase in the last year, having been steady for the four years prior. Over the seven-year period, sexual assault admissions have increased by 69%, and by 50% in just the last three years.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Admissions for Arson, Larceny, Burglary, Weapons Offenses

The following figure shows detention admissions for arson, larceny, burglary, and weapons offenses.



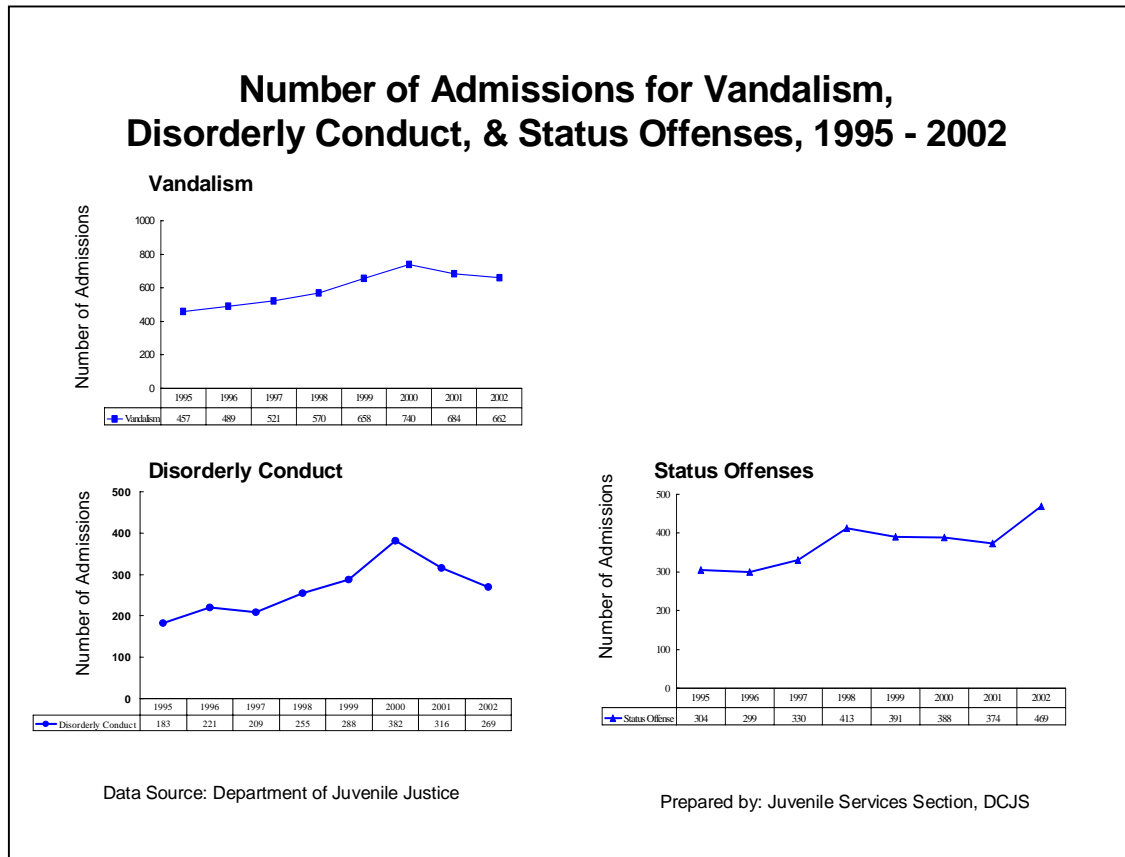
Although the numbers are few, admissions for arson, shown in the upper left figure, have almost tripled since 1995, increasing from 107 to 287. They have leveled off over the past three years. Burglary admissions have increased by 49% from 700 to 1045 in seven years, and by 30% in the past three years.

The two rightmost figures show no change or a decrease. Larceny shows little change with about 2600-2800 children admitted for larceny annually. Weapons offenses show a decrease of 35% over seven years from 624 to 409, with a 35% decrease from 2000-2002.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Admissions for Vandalism, Disorderly Conduct, and Status Offenses

Admissions for vandalism, disorderly conduct, and status offenses are shown in the graph below. Admissions for each of these offenses have increased by about 50% over seven years. For vandalism, displayed in the upper left, the number of

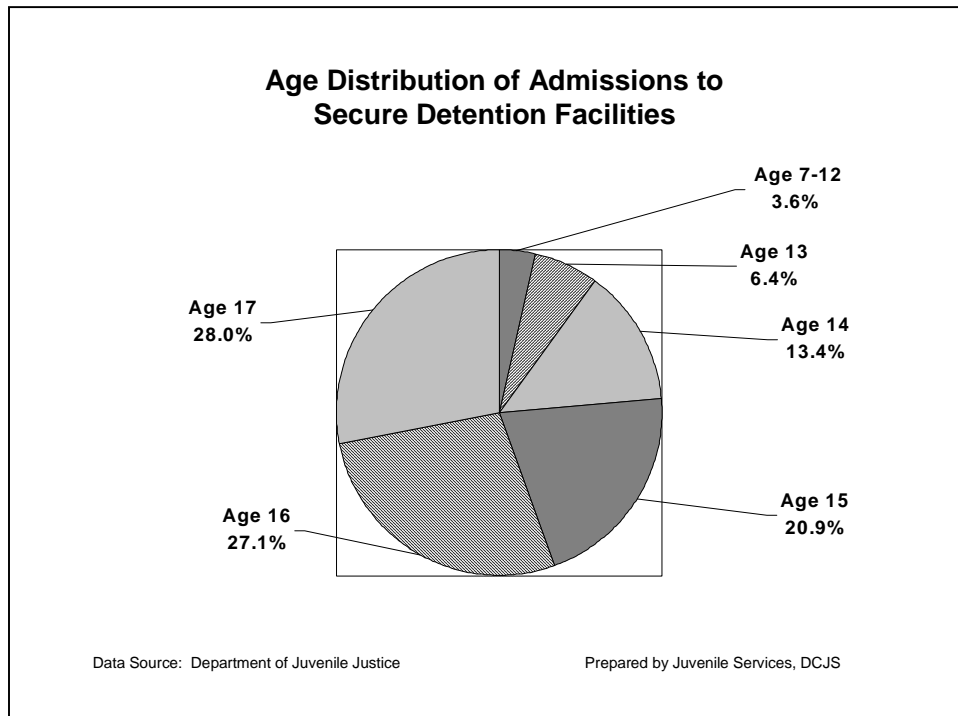


admissions has decreased by about 10% from 740 to 662 over the past three years. Disorderly conduct has also decreased over the past three years from 382 to 269, a decrease of 30%. Admissions for status offenses show a fairly steady upward trend, increasing by 54% in seven years, and by 21% in the last three years.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### AGE DISTRIBUTION: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES

The following pie chart shows the age distribution of children admitted to secure detention facilities in Virginia in 2002<sup>4</sup>.



The top right quadrant represents children who are aged 14 and under. Almost one-quarter, 23.4%, of children admitted to secure detention facilities were aged 14 and under in 2002, 46

admissions were for children aged 7-10, 137 were aged 11, 609 were aged 12, 1380 were aged 13, and 2,917 were aged 14.

This is an ongoing pattern -- children aged 14 and under have represented between 23 and 25% of admissions to secure detention facilities since 1998.

### RACIAL AND GENDER COMPOSITION: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES

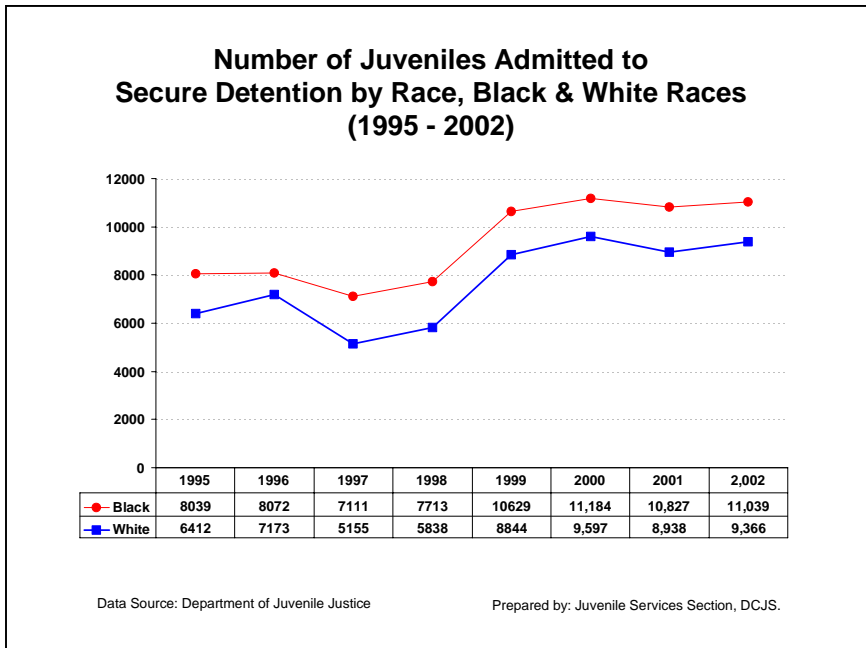
#### Racial Composition

The following graphs show the racial composition of admissions to secure detention facilities. Data for juveniles classified as black or white are depicted in the first graph. Because numbers for other minorities are less, they are depicted separately.

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<sup>4</sup> Data for admissions aged 18 and unknown were omitted. They total 130 admissions.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

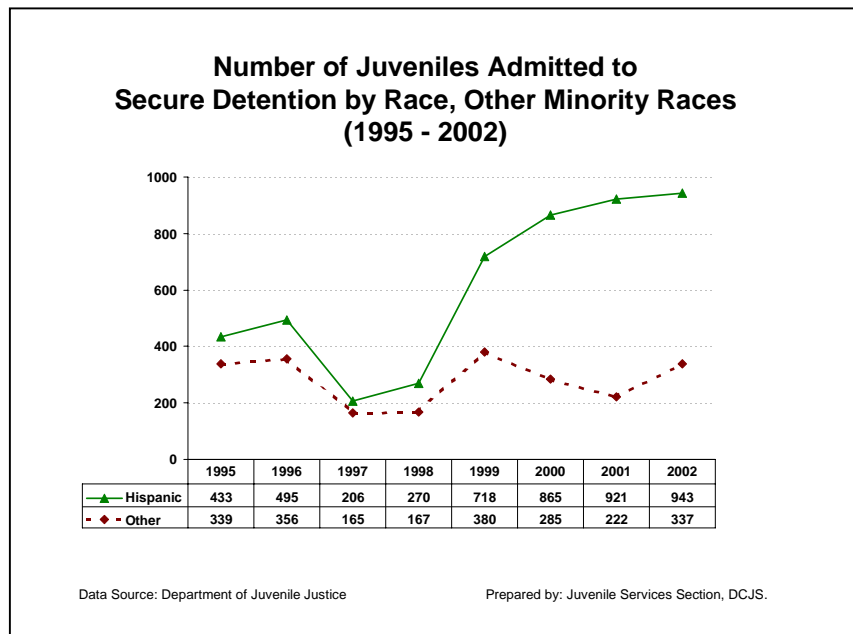


As the graph shows, the number of black juveniles exceeds the number of white juveniles consistently over the seven-year period. Increases in the numbers detained are shown for both racial groups. The number of admissions of black and white juveniles increased by 37.3% and 46%

respectively. Both have leveled off over the past three years.

The following graph depicts data for Hispanic and other minorities. The classification of *Other* includes the categories of Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and other races. As the graph shows, the number of admissions of Hispanic juveniles has

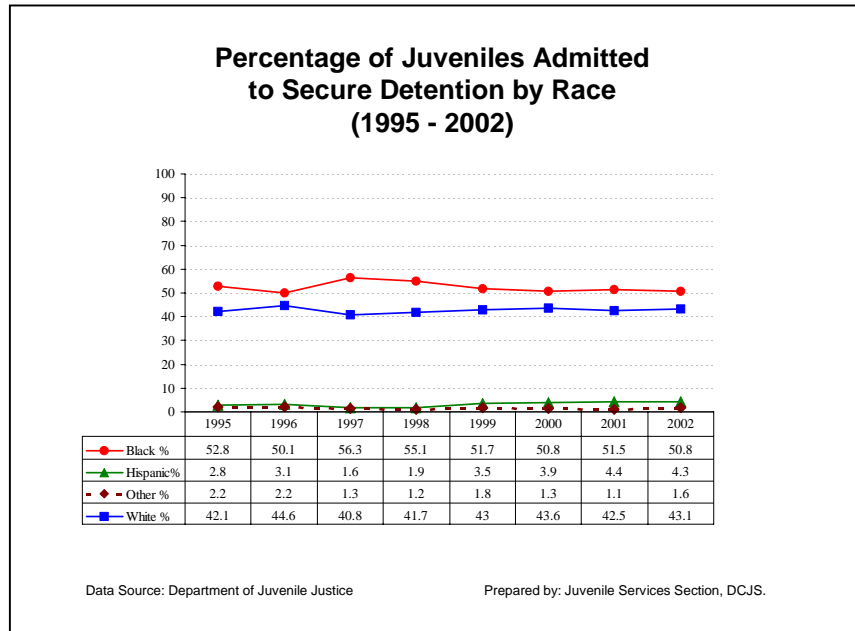
more than doubled over the seven-year period from 433 in 1995 to 943 in 2002. Nevertheless, as the graph on the next page shows, they represent a relatively small portion of admissions.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

As at intake, black children are over-represented in secure detention facilities in Virginia. They represent 24% of the at-risk population but 51% of admissions. The situation is unchanged over the past seven years.

Children classified as white are 65% of the at-risk population and 43% of admissions.

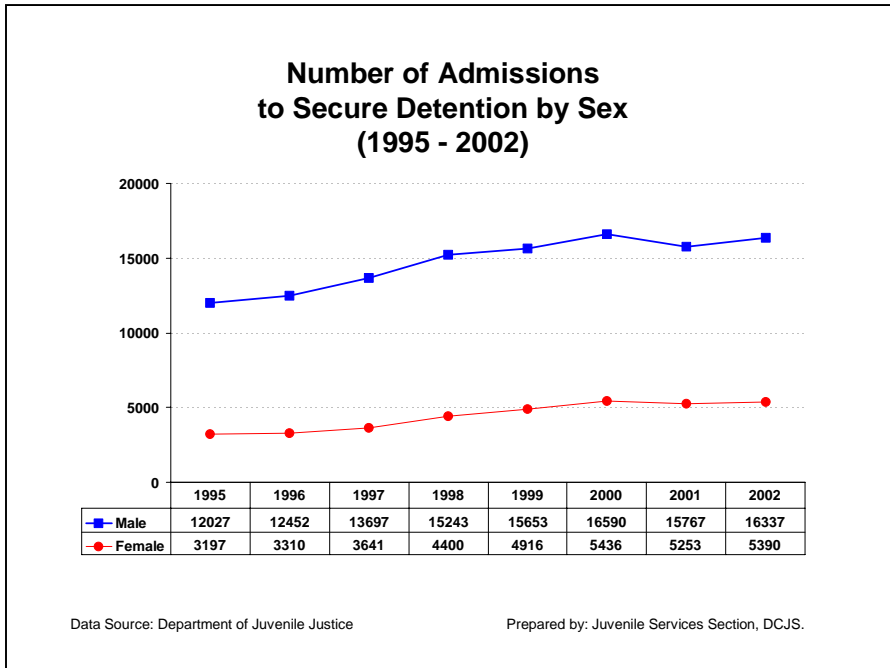


Together, admissions of black and white children account for almost 95% of admissions.

The percentage of admissions of Hispanic juveniles has increased from 2.8% in 1995 to 4.3% in 2002 with a corresponding decrease in admissions of juvenile classified as of other races. Whether this represents a true increase or inaccurate classification in the earlier years cannot be determined from the data. However, the at-risk Hispanic juvenile population, aged 10-17, has more than doubled in Virginia in the ten-year period 1991 to 2000. Their percentage has also increased substantially from 3.0 in 1991 to 5.0 in 2000.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### Gender Distribution



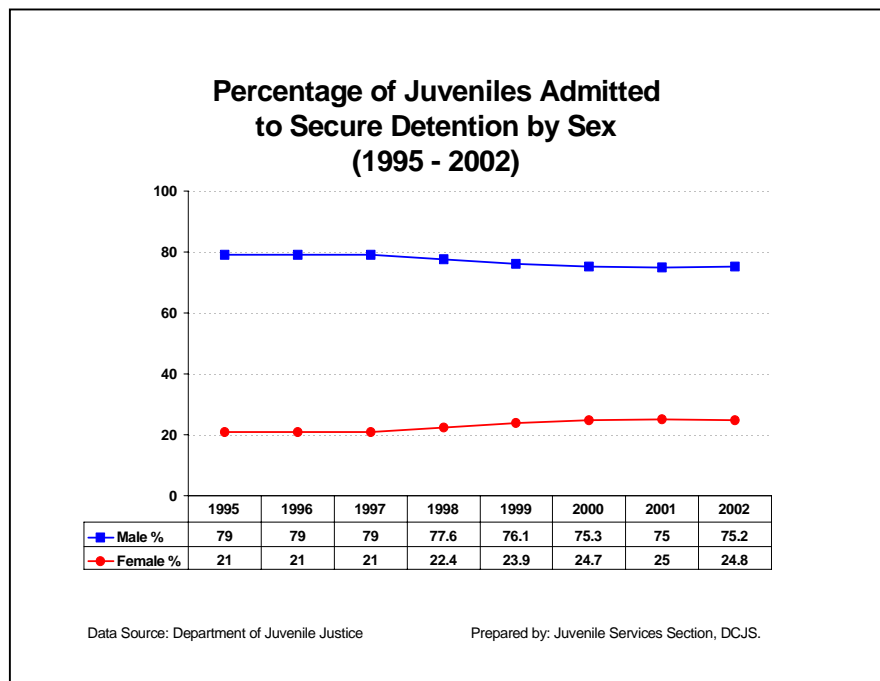
The following graphs show the number and percentages of admissions by gender.

As the first graph shows, the number of admissions of both males and of females have increased over the seven-year period.

However, admissions of females have increased at a

faster rate than males. Female admissions have increased from 3197 in 1995 to 5390 in 2002, an increase of 69%. Male admissions have increased by 36% from 12027 to 16337 over that same period.

Over the seven-year period, the percentages of male and female admissions has shifted slightly from about 79% male in 1995 to 75% male in 2002 with equivalent increases in female percentages. The male/female ratio has remained stable over the past three years.



## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

### **SUMMARY: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES**

We have nearly 20 years of admissions data for detention facilities. The data show that more and more juveniles are being held in locked confinement. Although the number of admissions has decreased slightly over the past three years, overall the number has more than doubled over the past 18 years. Most – 73% -- of children in secure detention facilities are held for less than three weeks. In 2002, 81% of admissions were predispositional.

Almost one-quarter -- 23.4% -- of children admitted to secure detention facilities were aged 14 and under in 2002. This is an ongoing pattern -- children aged 14 and under have represented between 23 and 25% of admissions to secure detention facilities since 1998.

As at intake, black children are over-represented in secure detention facilities in Virginia. They represent 24% of the at-risk population but 51% of admissions. The situation is unchanged over the past seven years.

The largest offense category for which children are detained is technical violations which account for 35% of admissions. These are admissions for which the child has not committed a new offense: probation/parole violations, contempt of court, and failure to appear. This is not a new trend. Technical offenses were the largest offense category in the last Three-Year Plan

Other major offense categories are assault, which accounted for about 18%, larceny 12%, narcotics 4%, and burglary 5%. Admissions for assault have almost doubled, since 1995. Although the numbers are many fewer than for assault cases, since 1995 admissions for sexual assault have increased by 69%, and by 50% in just the last three years. Similarly, admissions for arson, although relatively few, have almost tripled since 1995.

Admissions for burglary, vandalism, disorderly conduct, and status offenses have each increased by 50% since 1995. Weapons offenses show a decrease of 35% over seven years from 624 to 409, with a 35% decrease from 2000-2002.

Over ten years, the capacity of secure detention facilities has more than doubled with most of that growth occurring over the past five years. Now, there are more available beds than admissions.



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

### V: JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

If a juvenile is adjudicated as a delinquent and is 11 years of age or older, one of the possible sanctions is custodial commitment to State care. State care includes an initial assessment at the Reception and Diagnostic Center. There, data are collected pertaining to offense, social history, cognitive and psychological functioning, drug use, and physical health. From the Reception and Diagnostic Center, the juvenile may go to a boot camp, a privately operated residential facility, or a juvenile correctional center.

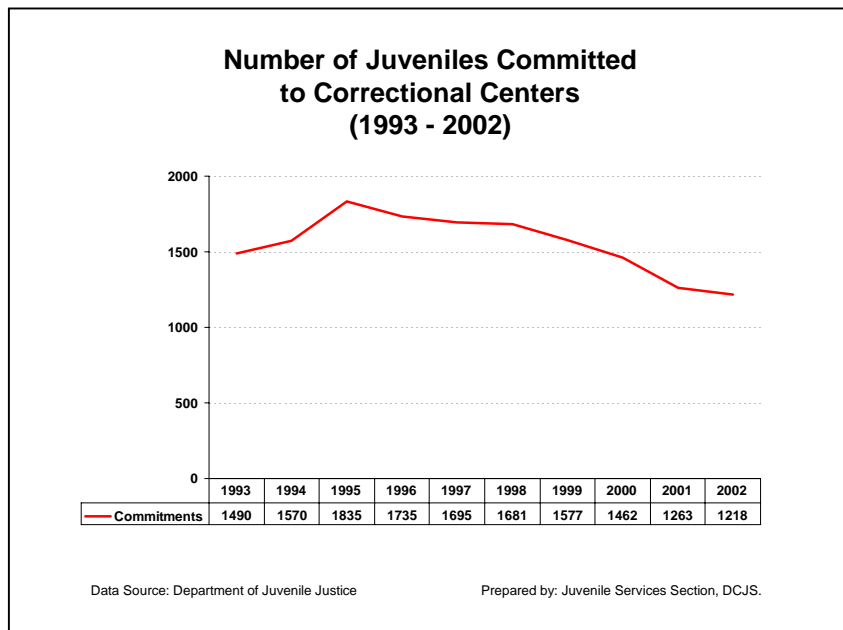
This section contains data on commitments, average daily population, admitting offenses, and population demographics for juvenile correctional centers. When provided, demographic information and offense data for Fairfax County are estimated by DJJ. For 1994, information is also estimated for Chesapeake.

The cost of detaining a juvenile in a correctional facility is high. In 2002, the annual per capita cost was \$77,313 comprised of \$59,403 JCC annual costs and \$17,910 educational costs<sup>5</sup>. There are seven juvenile correctional centers in

Virginia including the Reception and Diagnostic Center.

The number of juveniles committed to juvenile correctional centers is shown in the chart.

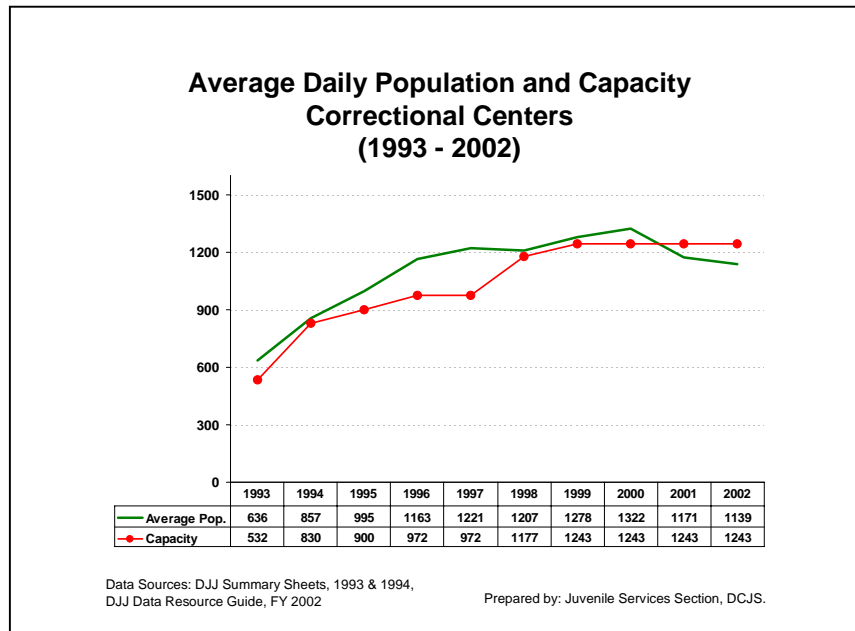
The total number of commitments has decreased by 18% over the 10-year period from 1490 in 1993 to 1218 in 2002.



<sup>5</sup> Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2002). *Data Resource Guide, Fiscal Year 2002*, Richmond, VA

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

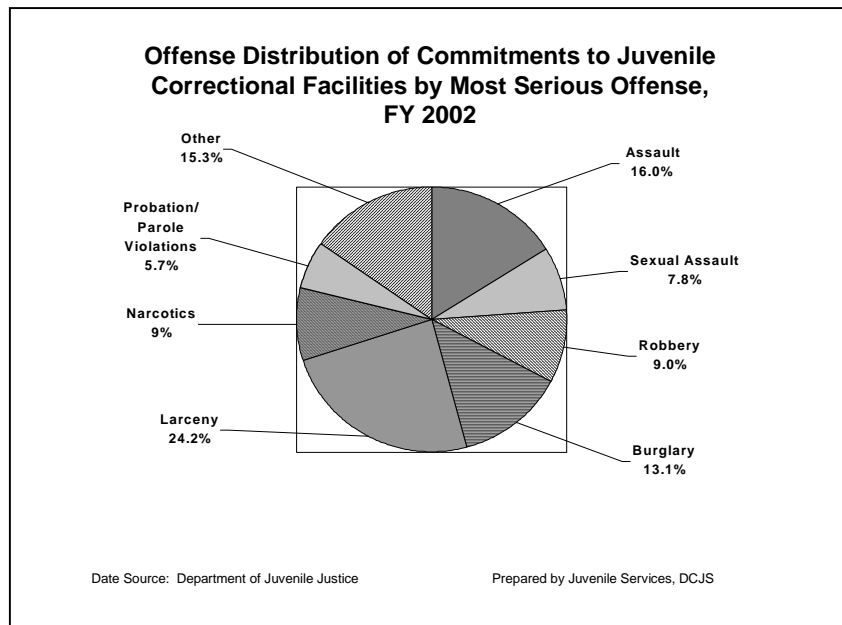
Although the number of admissions is decreasing, the length of stay has been increasing, as reflected in the average daily population which is rising. The average daily population has nearly doubled in ten years, as depicted in the chart. Compared to the 18% decrease in commitments, this reflects a fairly



large increase in length of stay. For the first time in eight years, the capacity of juvenile correctional centers exceeded the average daily population in 2000, suggesting a reduction in overcrowding in these facilities.

### OFFENSES

Relatively few offenses constitute a large portion of committing offenses. Offenses against persons -- assault, sexual assault, and robbery -- represent about one-third. Burglary and larceny represent another third or so. Narcotics and probation/parole violations are the other largest

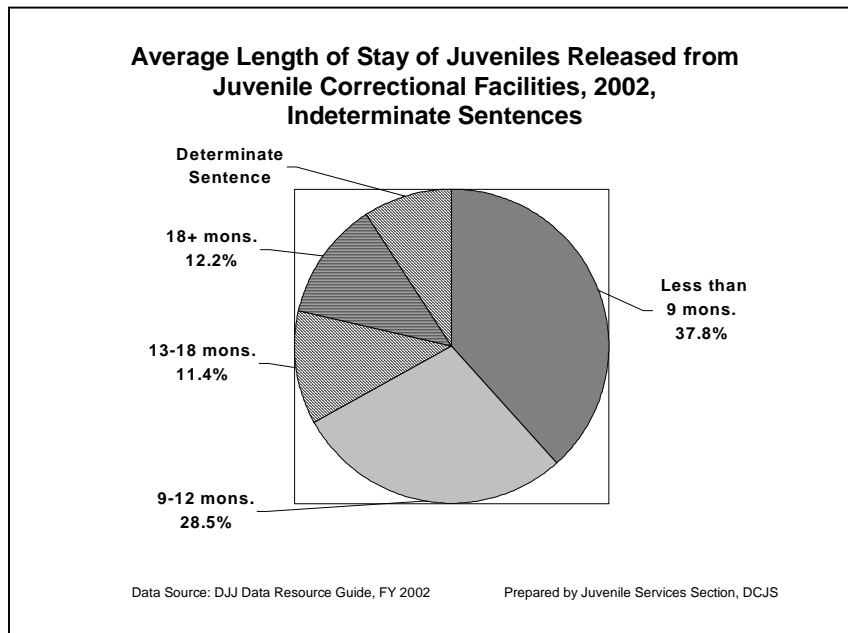


categories, representing 9% and 6% respectively. Overall, as the graph at the beginning of the section shows, the number of commitments has decreased by

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

about 18% in the three-year period 2000 to 2002. Of the major committing offenses shown in the chart above, narcotics, probation/parole violations and larceny have decreased by more than the average 18% in three years. Sexual assaults and burglary have increased, not decreased, over the three-year period by 23% and 7% respectively.

The next graph shows the average length of stay of juveniles released from juvenile correctional facilities in 2002 with indeterminate sentences. The Department of Juvenile Justice establishes the length of stay for juveniles with



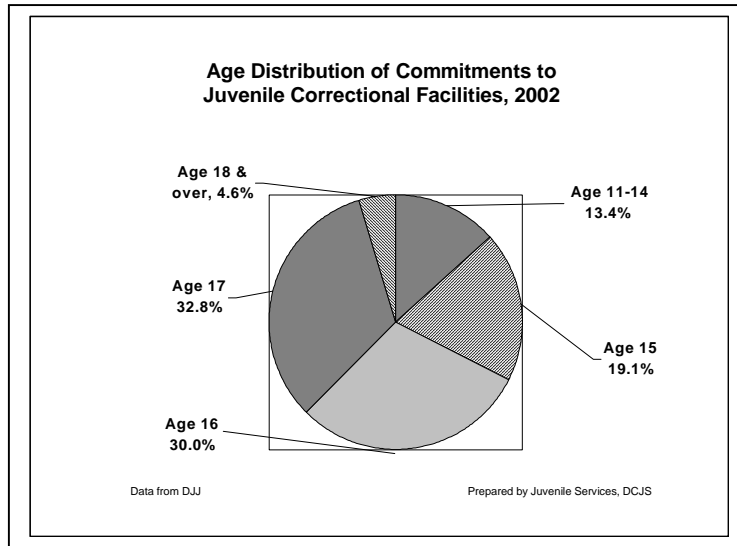
indeterminate sentences, which represent about 90% of commitments. The other 10% have a determinate sentence. As the graph shows, about 2/3 of juveniles had average sentences of less than 12 months. The overall average for juveniles with indeterminate sentences was about one year (11.6 months).

Juveniles with determinate sentences had an average length of stay of about 2 years (23.4 months) but the range is unavailable.

## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

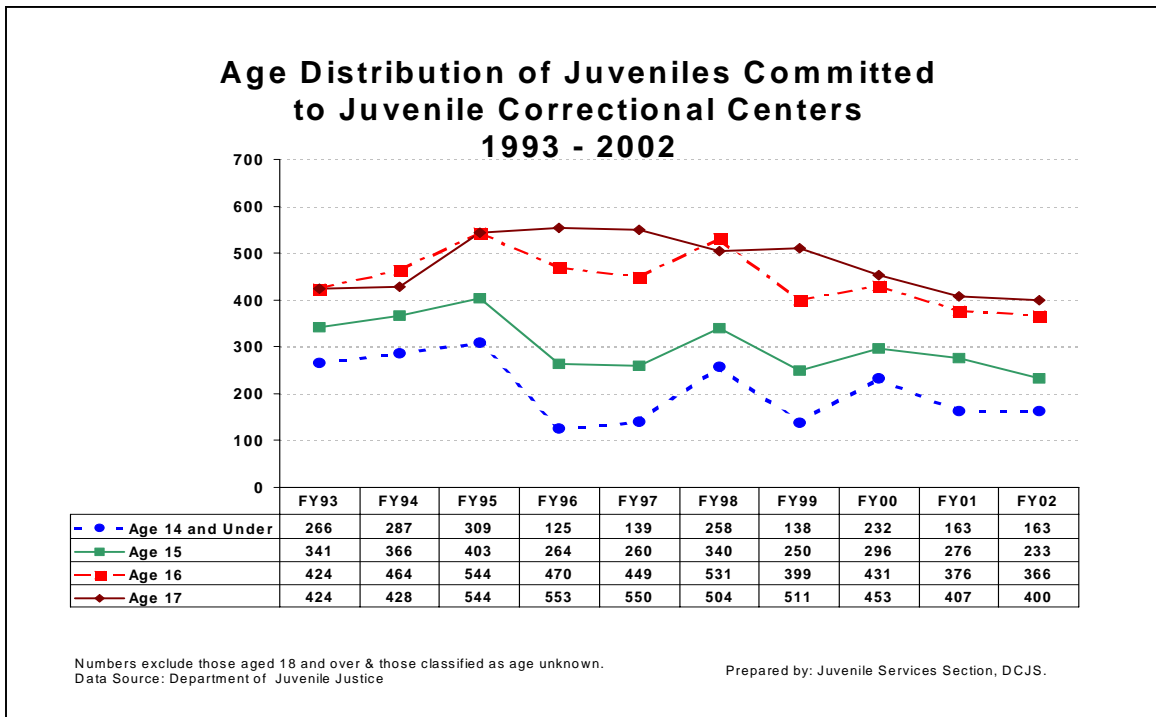
### AGE DISTRIBUTION

The figures below present the age distribution of children committed to juvenile correctional centers.



The pie chart shows the age distribution of children committed in 2002. About 13% of those children were aged 14 and under. Another 20% were aged 15, 30% were aged 16, and 30% aged 17.

The next graph presents the number of commitments, by age, for the ten-year period 1993 through 2002. The largest decrease in population is seen in the youngest inmates. The number of committed children aged 14 and under, shown



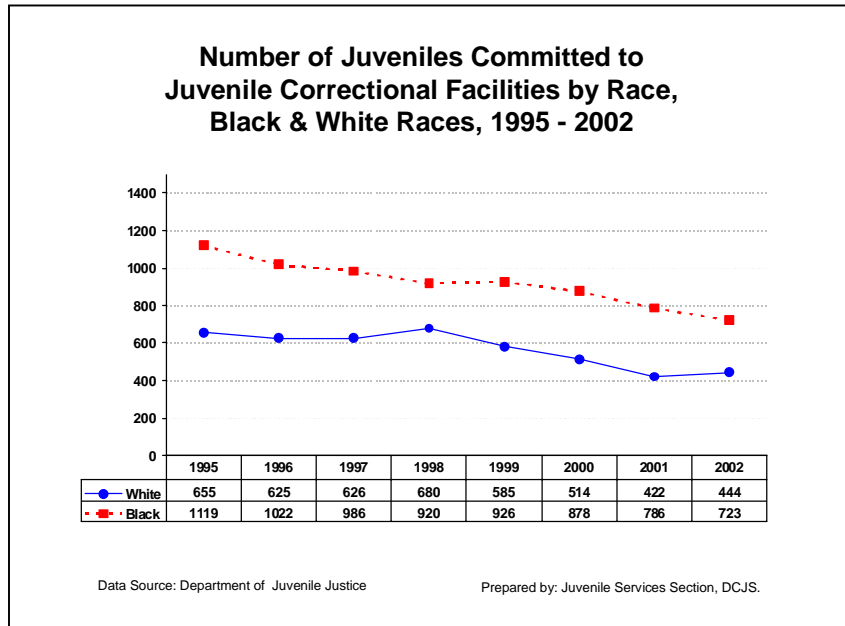
## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

by the bottom line in the graph, decreased by 39% in the ten-year period, from 266 to 163. Similarly, the number of children aged 15, shown in the second line from the bottom, decreased by 32% from 341 to 233.

### RACIAL AND GENDER COMPOSITION: CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

#### Racial Composition

The following graphs show the number of commitments to correctional centers by race. Numbers of children

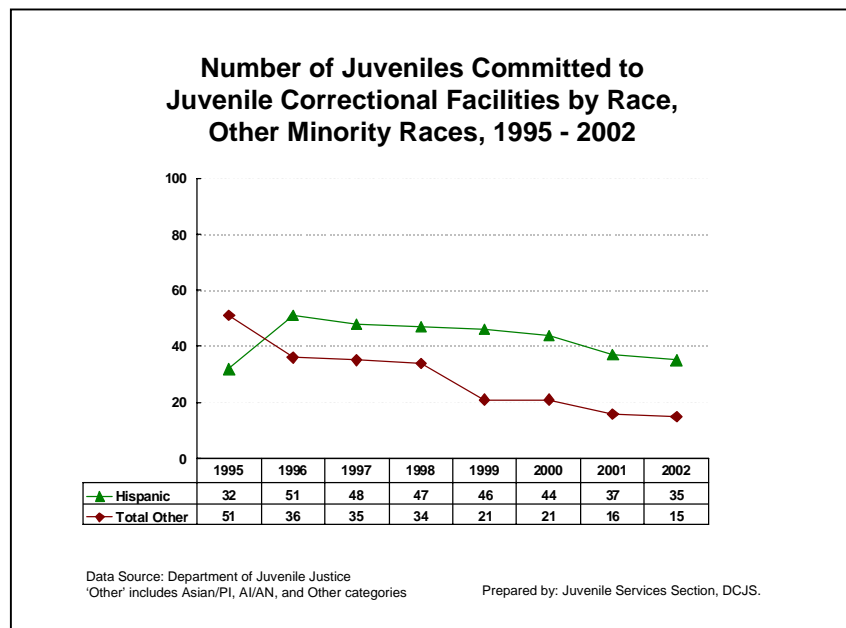


categorized as black or white are depicted on the first graph; those of Hispanic or other minority category are depicted on the second.

As the data show, the number of black children has consistently exceeded the number of white children committed to correctional

facilities. As at intake and in secure detention facilities, black children are over-represented relative to their proportion in the juvenile population. The numbers of black and white children have decreased at about the same rate over the ten years.

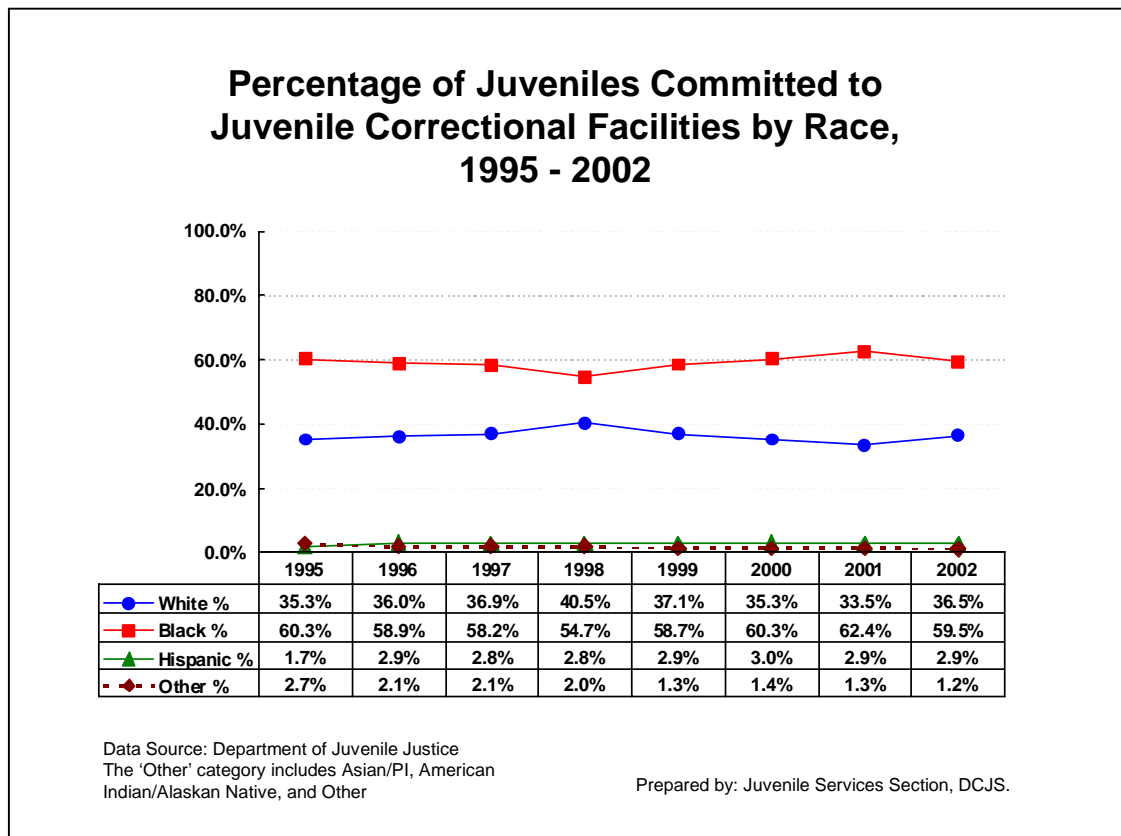
The right graph shows data for children of other



## II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems

minorities. Hispanic children are depicted separately. Hispanic children are the other largest single minority, but they still represent less than 3% of children in juvenile correctional facilities. The line shown as "total other" includes children categorized as Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and of other races.

The next figure provides an overview of the relative proportions of individuals of the three main racial categories and other minorities.



As the graph shows, black children represent 60% of commitments to juvenile correctional centers. That percentage is essentially unchanged over the past eight years. The percentage of Hispanic children has doubled in eight years, but they are still under-represented relative to their proportion in the juvenile population. Moreover, as the percentage of other minorities has decreased as the percentage of Hispanic children has increased, it is difficult to determine whether the increase is real or due to more accurate classification.

## **II. Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

### **GENDER DISTRIBUTION**

The gender distribution of admissions to correctional centers has changed little over the ten-year period 1993 to 2002. Close to 90% are males; about 10-12% are female.

### **SUMMARY: JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS**

The total number of commitments to juvenile correctional facilities has decreased by 18% over the last ten years, although there is some variability from year to year. The past three years show a decrease of 17%. Although the number of admissions is decreasing, the length of stay has been increasing. That increase is reflected in the average daily population which has nearly doubled in ten years. In 2000, for the first time in eight years, the capacity of juvenile correctional centers exceeded the average daily population.

Commitments to juvenile correctional facilities are typically of black males. About one-third of the most serious offenses are offenses against persons such as assault, sexual assault, and robbery. Burglary and larceny represent another third or so. Narcotics and probation/parole violations are the other largest categories. Although the overall trend is decreasing, the number of admissions where the most serious offense is sexual assault or burglary has increased.

The average length of stay for juveniles with indeterminate sentences was about one year; juveniles with determinate sentences stayed about 2 years, on average.

As would be expected, the age distribution of juveniles committed to correctional facilities reflects older children than those brought to intake or confined in secure detention facilities. Comparatively, children under aged 14 represent 13% of those committed to correctional centers, about one-quarter of children confined in secure detention facilities (slightly more for status offenses and slightly less for delinquent offenses) and about one-third of intakes. In contrast to the decreasing trend shown in correctional centers, those percentages show little change over the last five years.

As at intake and in secure detention facilities, black children are over-represented relative to their proportion in the juvenile population.